



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: May 19-20, 2014

SUBJECT: Request for Approval for State Center Community College District to Pursue College Status for the Willow International Community College Center		Item Number: 2.1	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	College Finance and Facilities Planning	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	<i>Swan C. Yeager for</i> Dan Troy, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	<i>Brice W. Harris</i> Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item requests state approval for State Center Community College District to transition the Willow International Community College Center from center status to college status pursuant to title 5, California Code of Regulations, section 55181. At this time the district requests that the name of the center be recognized as “Clovis Community College Center”.

BACKGROUND: The State Center Community College District was formed in 1964 and is one of California’s largest community college districts, serving over 34,000 students within a 5,580 square mile service area. The district consists of two colleges: Fresno City College and Reedley College. In addition, the district includes three state-approved educational centers: the Career and Technology Center in Fresno, the Madera Center, and the Willow International Community College Center. The district also operates the Oakhurst Center outreach location. Together these locations allow the district to provide comprehensive educational opportunities for basic skills development, associate degrees, certificates, transfer, and lifelong learning in the Central Valley.

The district submitted a Letter of Intent to the Chancellor’s Office in November 2008 requesting to pursue college status for the Willow International Community College Center. The Letter of Intent was approved by the Chancellor’s Office in March 2009, and the Department of Finance subsequently approved the center’s enrollment projections in August 2013. A Needs Study was submitted to the Chancellor’s Office in September 2013 and has been approved by all divisions of the Chancellor’s Office.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the district’s request to pursue college status for the Willow International Community College Center and recognize the new name of the center as “Clovis Community College Center”.

ANALYSIS: California Code of Regulations, title 5 section 55180(a) defines a college as “a degree-granting institution intended to provide instruction through the second year of college” which may offer one or more of the following:

- standard collegiate courses for transfer to institutions of higher education;
- career technical fields leading to employment; or
- general or liberal arts courses required for the institution to maintain its accreditation.

The Board of Governors’ Long-Range Capital Outlay Plan noted in 1991 that a new college campus was to eventually be developed within the State Center Community College District. The district is now moving forward with the process to achieve initial accreditation and community college status for the Willow International Community College Center. Future expansion at other sites in the district will be dependent on justification that may be included in an update to the Board’s Long-Range Capital Outlay Plan in the next year.

The State Center Community College District has historically received overwhelming community support for increased access to higher education opportunities for those residing in the northern Fresno and Clovis areas. There has been no shortage of demand for additional instructional opportunities since the district opened its original Clovis Center on a 6.37-acre site in Clovis in 1994. With support from the Clovis and Northeast Fresno communities, voters approved a local bond measure in 2002 that allocated over \$36 million for the development of the Willow International Community College Center.

The district completed acquisition of a 110-acre site for a permanent location for the center in 2003. The district acquired the site with the intention that, although the campus would initially be an educational center, it would eventually transition to a comprehensive community college location.

In 2004, the State Center Community College District utilized local bond and state capital outlay funds to start construction on the first phase of facilities at the current Willow International Community College Center. The center opened in fall 2007, primarily to serve the northeast Fresno and greater Clovis areas. Today, the center is comprised of five buildings totaling over 179,000 gross square feet: Academic Center One, Child Development Center, Bookstore/Cafeteria, Academic Center Two, and Central Support.

The Willow International Community College Center served 5,352 unduplicated headcount students and generated 1,613 Full-Time Equivalent Students in the fall 2012 term.

Population and Enrollment Projections

The demographic profile of the Willow International Community College Center supports the need for transitioning the existing center into a comprehensive community college. The center has been generating and will continue to generate most of its enrollment from the communities directly surrounding it -- Fresno, Clovis, Madera, Coarsegold, Sanger, Auberry, Kerman, Oakhurst, Prather, and Tollhouse. The total population within the service area was approximately 835,000 people in the year 2012. The California Department of Finance projects that the service area population will

increase by 4.74 percent (approximately 40,000 people) between the years 2012 and 2015 and the service area population is expected to reach over 1 million by the year 2025.

The California Code of Regulations, title 5 does not require that a college exceed a minimum threshold of Full-time Equivalent Students annually. However, the Willow International Community College Center has generated over 1,000 Full-time Equivalent Students each academic term since opening at the current location during the 2007-08 academic year and over 3,000 Full-time Equivalent Students annually since the 2008-09 academic year. Actual enrollment at the campus is forecasted to continue exceeding 1,000 Full-time Equivalent Students during the fall and 3,000 Full-time Equivalent Students annually. Table 1 shows recent enrollment projections for the center developed by the State Center Community College District and approved by the Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit. The number of existing Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES) and the projected growth in the service area demonstrate the continued viability of the Willow International Community College Center as it transitions into a comprehensive college.

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

Year	Fall Enrollment	Fall WSCH/Enrollment	Fall WSCH	Fall FTES	Annual FTES
2013-14	5,631	8.80	49,556	1,650	3,403
2014-15	5,713	8.80	50,275	1,674	3,452
2015-16	5,796	8.80	51,005	1,698	3,508
2016-17	5,900	8.80	51,918	1,729	3,569
2017-18	6,001	8.80	52,813	1,758	3,624
2018-19	6,080	8.80	53,502	1,781	3,669
2019-20	6,153	8.80	54,146	1,803	3,710
2020-21	6,216	8.80	54,697	1,821	3,752
2021-22	6,293	8.80	55,376	1,844	3,800
2022-23	6,375	8.80	56,100	1,868	3,848
2023-24	6,455	8.80	56,805	1,891	3,897
2024-25	6,539	8.80	57,544	1,916	3,949

Programmatic Alternatives

The State Center Community College District considered a number of alternatives to pursuing college status, and the district’s Board of Trustees has determined that college status is the most educational and financially feasible alternative. The alternatives evaluated as part of the Needs Study include the following:

Remain an Educational Center

Remaining an educational center with its limited programs and depth of course offerings would mean that most students could not complete their academic programs without traveling to other

district locations for necessary courses. This discourages many prospective students within the service area from attending Willow International Community College Center. If continued as an educational center, many student support programs and services would continue to be offered at multiple locations throughout the district. This results in students having to travel to multiple locations to access these services. Additionally, the center's parent institution would continue to be Reedley College which is located in a different service area over 35 miles away (45 minute driving commute). Once the center transitions to a college, students will be able to complete their academic programs and have full access to student support services at one location.

Expansion of Existing Institutions within the Region

The district first opened the Clovis outreach center in 1994 as part of a decentralization effort to alleviate enrollment pressures at the Fresno City College location and better serve residents in the northern Fresno/Clovis area. Overwhelming support and demand at the Clovis outreach location led to the district acquiring land and constructing the new campus at its current location. The Willow International Community College Center site is on 110 acres and currently serves approximately 5,000 students with adequate space to expand facilities and services to accommodate over 20,000 students.

In lieu of pursuing college status for the Willow International Community College Center, expansion of Fresno City College would be extremely costly and inefficient. Fresno City College is land-locked and now serves approximately 20,000 students on 100 acres creating overcrowded conditions with limited parking. Any attempt to expand facilities at Fresno City College will require extensive reconstruction efforts for vertical expansion. Despite recent efforts to expand instructional space capacity at Fresno City College, many students still choose to enroll at Willow International Community College Center due to less crowded conditions and greater course availability.

Expanding facilities at Reedley College, which is over 35 miles away (45 minute driving commute), would not respond to the needs of the Willow International Community College Center service area population as most students would not commute to Reedley College unless for specific agricultural programs.

Increase the Utilization of Existing Institutions

The State Center Community College District has increased the utilization of existing space by offering educational services throughout the instructional day, evening and on weekends. However, Fresno City College is impacted and land-locked while Reedley College is a 45 minute driving commute from Willow International Community College Center. As a result, students must enroll at multiple district locations to achieve their educational goals thereby diminishing student access within the service area.

Shared Use with Other Postsecondary Institutions

California State University Fresno is the only public four-year higher education institution within a 25-mile radius of Willow International Community College Center. Sharing facilities with California State University Fresno, which is located approximately 6 miles from the current site, would not be

a viable option due to the variety of program-specific facilities and scheduling needs. Currently, Willow International Community College Center provides students with the opportunity to get the education needed for transfer or an associate's degree/certificate. The center continues to strengthen its transfer pathways and relationships with four-year institutions.

Utilization of Non-traditional Delivery Methods

The State Center Community College District currently accommodates students with a variety of scheduling needs and learning styles. The Willow International Community College Center offers online and point-to-point interactive classes. In addition, hybrid courses are offered which include a combination of both online and face-to-face instruction. These courses utilize Blackboard, a learning management system, to post assignments and engage students in discussion forums. Although the use of non-traditional instructional delivery is important to meet a broad range of educational needs within the community, access to traditional educational facilities and services is important to maintain awareness and promote higher education opportunities.

Academic Planning and Program Justification

Chancellor's Office staff in the Academic Affairs Division reviewed the State Center Community College District's Needs Study and found no inter-district concerns, that the proposed delivery system is reasonable and that the district provided information to support the academic program offerings. Although the Willow International Community College Center continues to be accredited through Reedley College, the district's Board of Trustees approved an administrative structure for the center in preparation of pursuing a transition to a comprehensive college. The administration at the campus is led by a President who reports to the Chancellor of the State Center Community College District.

The Willow International Community College Center is affiliated with Reedley College and is focused on offering affordable and comprehensive educational opportunities to a diverse population of students who seek opportunities for basic skills development, associate degrees, certificates, transfer, and lifelong learning. The courses and programs offered by State Center Community College District have been approved by the Chancellor's Office. A full complement of academic programs are offered at Willow International Community College Center, which are organized under three major instructional divisions which include Humanities, Math/Science/Engineering (including Health Science and Physical Education), and Social Science/Business.

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 pursuit of transitioning the educational center to a comprehensive community college.

In addition, the information provided regarding the delivery of student services meets the guidelines for approval of this request. The district has provided information that addresses how support services are planned and will be staffed and evaluated during the transition from center to

college. Services currently offered either onsite or through Reedley College 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 activities; student health and mental health services; library services; tutoring; transfer and articulation services; and veterans services.

By approving the request to pursue college status for Willow International Community College Center, the district will be able to continue the implementation of its transition plan which includes further efforts to improve staffing levels and effective delivery of 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 Willow International Community College Center Needs Study for transitioning to a college and determined that the State Center Community College District's fiscal performance and condition are adequate to meet the future fiscal demands of the proposed college. The district has effectively managed its monetary resources to achieve an annual fund balance of 28 percent, which is above the recommended minimum 5 percent reserve. The full-time equivalent student potential of the Willow International Community College 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 3,158 Full-time Equivalent Students in FY 2012-13.

Future capital outlay improvements at the campus within the next 10 years include the planned construction of three more facilities at an estimated cost of \$58 million. Currently, the Willow International Community College Center campus consists of 117,625 assignable square feet and is projected to increase to approximately 185,400 assignable square feet as a result of capital outlay projects proposed within the next 10 years. Voters from the Clovis and Northeast Fresno communities approved a local bond measure in 2002 that allocated over \$36 million for the Willow International Community College Center. The district utilized local bonds and state capital outlay funds to fund the existing facilities. The district will continue to apply for state capital outlay funds to fund future capital outlay projects.

Geographic and Physical Accessibility

The Willow International Community College Center is located on 110 acres of land located at Willow and International Avenues in the northern portion of the cities of Fresno and Clovis. The site is located approximately 4.8 miles east of Highway 41 (Yosemite Freeway) and 4.8 miles north of Highway 168 (Sierra Freeway). There is a strong network of major surface streets surrounding the Willow International Community College Center, making the location easily accessible with various routes to campus. The commute time for residents located within the center's service area zip codes ranges from 10 minutes (3.9 miles) to 59 minutes (44.2 miles). Service area residents within the City of Clovis zip codes have an average commute time of 17.5 driving minutes to the center. California State University Fresno is located approximately 17 driving minutes (6.4 miles) from the

Willow International Community College Center campus. Other notable out-of-district public higher education institutions within a one hour commute from the center are West Hills College Lemoore (52 driving minutes), College of the Sequoias (54 driving minutes), and College Of the Sequoias Hanford Center (56 driving minutes).

The campus has been designed to maximize access, with major entrances available from all directions. The east side of the campus features an interconnected community wide bikeway trail system maintained by the cities of Fresno and Clovis. The facilities master plan provides for approximately 3,900 parking stalls which can serve approximately 20,000 staff, employees and students at full build-out, while continuing to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Figure 1: State Center Community College District – State Approved District Locations



Source: 2014 Esri, ArcGIS.com; College Finance and Facilities Planning, The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

Effects on Other Institutions

Establishing Willow International Community College Center as a community college is not anticipated to have any negative impact on other neighboring higher education institutions. The only community college operations within a 25-mile radius belong to State Center Community College District. All neighboring community college district locations are approximately 44.8 miles

to 120 miles from the Willow International Community College Center, with approximate driving commute times ranging from 52 minutes to 144 minutes.

The Needs Assessment for the Willow International Community College Center demonstrates that there are a number of positive points to support the transition to a comprehensive college, including, but not limited to: providing increased transfer opportunities; increasing the options to complete programs without requiring a student to commute to another site; enhancing convenience and access to larger numbers of potential students; extending outreach to underserved populations; allowing unique collaboration arrangements with four-year institutions (University of California and California State University); promoting a focus on programs for local needs; and, increasing educational options for students both within and outside of the formal service area.

The following neighboring institutions have provided letters of support: College of the Sequoias, West Hills College Lemoore, West Hills College Coalinga, Merced College, Modesto Junior College, Reedley College, Fresno City College, California State University Fresno, University of California Merced, Fresno Pacific University, and Clovis Unified School District. Letters of support from neighboring higher education institutions verify that these entities were consulted during the process of obtaining community college status, there will be no negative impact on enrollment or economy of operations and that the pursuit of college status will not create excess enrollment capacity or lead to an unnecessary duplication of programs.

Environmental Impact

The State Center Community College District Board of Trustees certified the final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act in 2002, approving the site acquisition and construction at Willow International Community College Center. The final Environmental Impact Report was developed based on the anticipation that Willow International Community College Center will be constructed in multiple phases over a 20-year (or longer) period and would ultimately serve approximately 10,000 students (6,500 FTES) in the year 2020. In March 2005, the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees certified an addendum to the final Environmental Impact Report to amend the project to construct Willow International Community College Center such that it included the installation of a 60-inch-diameter raw water pipeline under the property to be connected to the City of Fresno's surface water treatment plant. The environmental impacts were studied appropriately, and as a result, a final Environmental Impact Report was filed with the State Clearing House (State Clearing House # 2000111026) in 2004 and is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.

Willow International Community College Center Name Change

After receiving Initial Accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and final approval as a college from the Board of Governors, the new college will be known as Clovis College. Therefore the district requests that the name of the center now be recognized as Clovis Community College Center.

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