PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DATE: July 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Recognition of College Status for Clovis Community College, State Center Community College District

CATEGORY: College Finance and Facilities Planning

Recommended By: Dan Troy, Vice Chancellor

Approved for Consideration: Brice W. Harris, Chancellor

ISSUE: This item requests recognition of Clovis Community College, of the State Center Community College District, as the 113th campus of the California Community Colleges.

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 Clovis 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 initiated the process for the center to transition to a college with the submittal of a Letter of Intent to the Chancellor’s Office in November 2008, ultimately resulting in approval of the district’s request to pursue college status and change the name of the center to “Clovis Community College Center” by the Board of Governors in May 2014 (see Attachment A). In June 2015, following a comprehensive visit, the center was granted initial accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges has confirmed that the Clovis Community College Center has met all of the requirements necessary for college status. This final recognition by the Board of Governors will result in the college being funded and counted as a new college in the California Community College system.
RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors welcome Clovis Community College as the 113th college in the California Community College system.

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 Growth Plan noted in 1991 that a new college campus was to eventually be developed within the State Center Community College District. The district has achieved initial accreditation and is seeking community college status for the Clovis Community College Center.

The State Center Community College District has historically received overwhelming community support for increasing 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 Community College 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 Clovis Community College Center (then called the Willow International Community College Center).

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 assumption that Willow International Community College Center would 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.

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. The Clovis 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).

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 Clovis 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. 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. The district will continue to apply for state capital outlay funds to fund future capital outlay projects.
The California Code of Regulations, title 5 does not require that a college exceed a minimum threshold of Full-time Equivalent Students (FTES) annually. However, the Clovis Community College Center has generated over 1,000 FTES each academic term since opening at the current location during the 2007-08 academic year and over 3,000 FTES annually since the 2008-09 academic year. Actual enrollment at the campus is forecasted to continue exceeding 1,000 FTES during the fall and 3,000 FTES annually. The Clovis Community College Center generated 3,607 FTES during the 2013-14 year. The number of existing FTES and the projected growth in the service area demonstrate the continued viability of the Clovis Community College Center as it transitions into a comprehensive college.

The Clovis Community College Center 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 administration at the campus is led by a President who reports to the Chancellor of the State Center Community College District. The courses and programs offered by the State Center Community College District have been approved by the Chancellor’s Office. A full complement of academic programs are offered at Clovis Community College Center, which are organized under three major instructional divisions and include Humanities, Math/Science/Engineering (including Health Science and Physical Education), and Social Science/Business.

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. Currently the services available to students 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.

The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges has confirmed that the Clovis Community College Center has met all of the requirements necessary for college status. After receiving recognition as a college from the Board of Governors, the new college will be known as Clovis Community College.

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