

***Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees***

3. Campus Facilities and Construction Committee

April 19, 2022

Resource: Christopher G. Eyle  
Vice President of Facilities & Construction

**DISCUSSION ITEM:** Consideration of Approval for the District President to Finalize Negotiations and Execute a Contract for the Purchase and Installation of 15 Welding Booths and Associated Infrastructure at the Technical Campus

**DISCUSSION:** At the Technical Campus, since the beginning of the program in Fall 2020, the welding department's student enrollment has more than doubled, and the number of contact hours has increased every semester by over 17%. To meet this growing demand, the department requires additional welding booths.

The labor market in the DFW area is expecting a 15.8% growth over the next few years. There are over 12,000 welding professionals in the immediate area, and the demand continues to trend upwards. The geographical area has experienced increased attrition and a lack of available skilled workers during a significant growth in demand for these same skills. This has been partially attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aging workforce retiring or leaving the field due to health concerns. Adding this additional equipment will allow us to support any re-skilling efforts and replenish the workforce, providing gainful employment to students and skilled workers for the community.

Collin College's current welding facilities are scheduled seven days a week with faculty teaching double overloads due to the number of students and limited lab time. Several classes are booked in the same time slots to split the lecture time and lab time to maximize efficiency. There continues to be a very high demand for these courses. Currently, the welding program makes up approximately 17% of all contact hours at the Technical Campus.

To address the above concerns, RWB Consulting Engineers has completed a study of the issue and has recommended a project to install 15 welding booths in the open-air portion of Trade Bar B and associated infrastructure (mechanical, electrical, ventilation, etc.) By adding this equipment, Collin College can train an additional 60 students every three

semesters with classes scheduled for morning, afternoon, evening, and weekends. Students can graduate with a certificate after one semester, a Level 2 certificate after three semesters, and an AAS degree after four semesters.

A full design is required for this project which is expected to last approximately three months and cost approximately \$40,000. The design cost is budgeted and available in CARES funding. The design cost is not included in the below project cost and can be procured via existing authorities as a professional service.

After the design, formal solicitations will be issued and competitive proposals will be evaluated to determine the construction contractor. The estimated cost for this construction project is \$410,000, including \$75,000 of the owner's contingency, which is budgeted and available in the CARES funding.

Collin College will purchase the 15 welding booths and associated equipment from Lincoln Electric. The cost for the equipment is \$300,000 and is available in CARES funding.

Delegating authority to the District President to negotiate and execute a contract for these services will expedite the work to be performed. The intent is to have the work complete in the spring of 2023.