

Date of Board Meeting: October 20, 2026

Recommendation: Approval to seek proposals for a Virtual New Student Orientation Platform

Background and Rationale:

Wharton County Junior College has submitted a proposal to the Houston Endowment for an implementation grant that includes funding to procure a virtual new student orientation platform. This platform would strengthen the transition of newly admitted students into the College by providing an accessible, consistent introduction to academic expectations, registration, financial aid, campus resources, and student support services. Students could complete interactive orientation modules at their convenience, helping WCJC serve students across its campuses, including working adults and those with transportation or scheduling constraints. This investment would advance the APP2CAP student success framework by preparing students to begin college with a clear understanding of their next steps and available support.

The platform would help students connect with advising, select an academic pathway, and prepare for their first semester. Completion tracking and timely reminders would allow staff to identify students who need additional assistance and provide personalized follow-up. By establishing these connections before classes begin, virtual orientation is expected to strengthen student readiness, persistence, and progress toward graduation. Board approval is requested to announce a Request for Proposals to evaluate and procure a virtual New Student Orientation platform that meets WCJC's student needs, accessibility standards, and technology requirements. Any resulting contract would be brought forward through the applicable approval process.

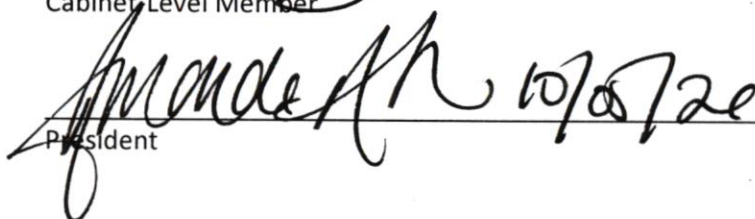
Budgetary Implications: \$75,000 (Year 1)
\$45,000 (Year 2)
\$35,000 (Year 3)
(Contingent upon awarding of Houston Endowment Implementation Grant)

Resource Personnel: David Byrd, Vice President of Access, Completion, and Technology
Clarissa Bueno, Director of Purchasing
Robby Mathews, Director of Networking and Server Services

Approval:

 10.5.26

Cabinet Level Member

 10/10/26

President