



Collin County Community College

Request for Proposal Financial Audit Services

February 27, 2025

Celina Cereceres, CPA
Audit Partner
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Dallas, TX 75225
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February 27, 2025

Collin County Community College
Atten: Barbara Johnston
3452 Spur 399 W
McKinney, TX 75069

We are pleased to submit our proposal in response to your Request for Proposal to objectively provide the financial audit services for Collin County Community College (the "College"). Our firm welcomes this opportunity to describe our capabilities and to provide evidence of our sincere desire to serve you. We believe our proposal demonstrates our resources, governmental accounting experience and dedication of providing superior service to our clients.

Whitley Penn, established in 1983, has become one of the region's most distinguished accounting firms by providing exceptional service that reaches far beyond traditional accounting. The firm has consistently received high marks for its practice and management. The success of the firm allows us to bring qualified and experienced personnel to this and all of our governmental engagements. With a dedicated Public Sector team, Whitley Penn is qualified and ready to provide the requested services.

Our public sector team currently serves communities colleges across the State and we are well versed in State Appropriations, Tuition and Fees, Student Financial Aid compliance, other federal and state grant; compliance challenges, and overall College operations.

We believe that we can provide quality service for the College. Below is a short list of clients for whom we currently provide financial audit services:

- Amarillo College
- College of the Mainland
- Coastal Bend College
- Grayson College
- Lee College District
- Midland College District
- Navarro College District
- Odessa College District
- San Jacinto College
- Tarrant County College
- Tyler Junior College

We appreciate the opportunity to serve the College and we look forward to meeting with you and discussing further how we can work together.

Sincerely,



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Audit Partner

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QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF FIRM AND PERSONNEL



Our goal is not just to continue to be the College's auditors but also a year-round resource for the College. We see the external financial statement audit as the first line of defense. We believe that if we partner with the College to ensure it is in compliance with federal and state regulations, you can focus on what is most important: **the education of your students.**

Knowledgeable Professionals

Whitley Penn is one of the largest Texas-based, public accounting firms. With 93 partners, nine offices, more than 800 employees, and a worldwide affiliate membership with HLB International, the firm is able to offer a deep level of knowledge and know-how. Whitley Penn has been recognized as one of the "Top 100 Firms in the U.S." and "Best of the Best" by *INSIDE Public Accounting* consistently for more than 10 years. The firm's Public Sector team has extensive experience performing audits and other attestation engagements for school districts, universities, and large government organizations. Whitley Penn is actively involved with the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) where our professionals are active presenters at meetings. We are currently the only public accounting firm serving on the TASBO/TEA Advisory Committee. Whitley Penn is currently ranked as the 35th largest firm in the U.S. according to *Accounting Today* and 20th in the nation based on 2024 - 2025 rankings from VAULT ACCOUNTING 25.



Significant Texas Government Experience & Dedicated Public Sector Team

We have conducted governmental audits for more than 35 years. Our firm has provided auditing and consulting services for more than 10 colleges in Texas, as well as more than 100 other governmental entities. Many of our partners and managers have been recognized for their experience and have conducted seminars on various governmental accounting, auditing, and financial reporting topics for the Texas Society of CPAs (TXCPA), other CPA firms, TASBO and Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT). We have a dedicated Public Sector team that work solely on governmental projects year-round. Our partners and managers hold the advanced single audit certificate issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). We also participate in the annual Texas Association of Community College Business Officials (TACCBO) conference.



Experienced Engagement Leadership

Whitley Penn's public sector team consists of four (4) partners, eight (8) managers, 9 (nine) senior associates, and a pool of approximately 20 associates who are dedicated to serving governmental entities. Our management team receives annual training in governmental auditing and financial reporting. We are in the process of planning and performing the services you have requested for our existing college audit clients. We have extensive experience in performing management and performance review services for Texas/other state agencies and for governments in Texas/other states. If awarded, our proposed engagement team members (two partners, one senior manager and one senior associate) would be staffed on a full-time basis for this engagement.



QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF FIRM AND PERSONNEL



Celina Cereceres, CPA, CFE

Engagement Partner
Public Sector Industry Leader

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Celina.Cereceres@whitleypenn.com



Similar Entities Served

- Aldine ISD
- Alief ISD
- Alvin ISD(CMAR)
- Arlington ISD
- Beaumont ISD
- College of the Mainland
- Friendswood ISD
- Galena Park ISD
- Galveston ISD
- Garland ISD
- Harmony Public Schools
- Harris County Department of Education
- Highland Park ISD (CMAR)
- Houston ISD
- Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Humble ISD
- Idea Public Schools
- Kipp Texas Inc.
- Lancaster ISD
- Leander ISD
- Lewisville ISD
- Lone Star College System
- Mansfield ISD
- Mesquite ISD
- Navarro College
- New Caney ISD (Internal Control Review)
- Port Arthur ISD
- Richardson ISD
- San Jacinto College
- Sheldon ISD (CMAR)
- Spring Branch ISD
- Spring ISD
- Willis ISD
- Yes Prep Public Schools
- Ysleta ISD

Practice

Audit Services - Public Sector
Licensed to Practice in the State of Texas | CPA License #084132

Education

BA and MS in Accounting from the University of Texas - El Paso

Experience

- More than 24 years of audit public accounting experience focused on clients primarily in the following industries: community colleges, school districts, nonprofit organizations and other large governments administering large amounts of federal and state grant awards.
- Earned the AICPA's Advanced Single Audit Certificate.
- Responsible for training firm staff in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), and *Governmental Audit Standards (GAS)*.
- Extensive knowledge with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Grant Guidance.
- Designated Audit Quality Partner for the AICPA's Government Audit Quality Center.
- Responsible for providing CPE to both employees, clients, and industry professional organizations.

Professional & Civic Organizations

- Texas Education Agency/TASBO Advisory Committee (only CPA firm)
- Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA)
- Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO)
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- TXCPA School District Conference Planning Committee
- TXCPA School District Conference Chair
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE)
- TASBO Accounting/Finance Research Committee

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF FIRM AND PERSONNEL



Guadalupe R. Garcia, CPA

Engagement Quality Control Reviewer

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Cell: 832.573.6825

Lupe.Garcia@whitleypenn.com



Similar Entities Served

- Alief ISD
- Austin ISD
- Bastrop ISD
- Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD
- Cedar Hill ISD
- Clear Creek ISD
- Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD
- Dallas ISD (E-rate)
- Fort Bend ISD
- Galena Park ISD
- Garland ISD
- Harris County Department of Education
- Houston Community College
- Houston ISD
- Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Humble ISD
- Katy ISD
- Lamar CISD
- La Poyner ISD
- Lee College
- Lone Star College System
- Mansfield ISD
- Navarro College
- Pasadena ISD
- Pearland ISD
- Pflugerville ISD
- Round Rock ISD
- Schreiner University
- Sheldon ISD
- Spring Branch ISD
- Spring ISD
- Texas Southern University
- Waller ISD

Practice

Audit Services - Public Sector

Licensed to Practice in the State of Texas | CPA License #098442

Education

BBA in Finance from the University of Houston

Experience

- More than 18 years of experience auditing and performing other attest engagements for various governmental entities, including community colleges, school districts, counties, cities, other special-purpose governments, and nonprofit organizations.
- Earned the AICPA's Advanced Single Audit Certificate.
- Responsible for all aspects of the assurance process including planning, internal control evaluation, risk assessment, fieldwork, and report issuance and engagement closure.
- Assists in training staff in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS), *Government Auditing Standards (GAS)* promulgated by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements under Uniform Grant Guidance.
- Responsible for preparation and review of Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) that have been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Professional & Civic Organizations

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Texas Society and Houston Chapter of Certified Public Accountants – Board Member
- Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO)
- Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT)
- TASBO Accounting/Finance Research Committee (only CPA firm)
- Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- Houston Community College Accounting Advisory Board Member

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF FIRM AND PERSONNEL



Lauren Eaton, CPA, CFE

Manager

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Lauren.Eaton@whitleypenn.com

Similar Entities Served

- Amigos Por Vida
- Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD
- Collin County Community College
- Desoto ISD
- Draw Academy
- Duncanville ISD
- Ector County ISD
- Fort Bend ISD
- Garland ISD
- Garland ISD Education Foundation
- Grayson College
- LaPoynor ISD
- Lewisville ISD
- Mesquite ISD
- Navarro College
- Pecos-Barstow-Toyah ISD
- Richardson ISD
- Tarrant County College District
- Ysleta ISD

Practice

Audit Services - Public Sector

Licensed to Practice in the State of Texas | CPA License # 122498

Education

BS in Accounting from University of North Texas - Denton and MS in Auditing and Assurance from the University of North Texas - Denton

Experience

- More than four years of experience in auditing to governmental and nonprofit entities.
- Extensive knowledge of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements under Uniform Grant Guidance.
- Responsible for preparing, analyzing, maintaining, and reviewing financial statements, records and reports.
- Performs audit tasks for government and nonprofit engagements including reviewing and testing transactions and internal controls, performing analytical procedures, and documenting audit results.
- Review and supervise associates on each engagement.
- Assist clients in preparing financial statement schedules.
- Summarize audit results for manager and partner review.

Professional & Civic Organizations

- Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA)
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiner (ACFE)

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF FIRM AND PERSONNEL



Gabbi Fellows

Senior Associate

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Similar Entities Served

- Lewisville ISD
- Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD
- Mesquite ISD
- Cedar Hill ISD
- Collin County Community College
- Leander ISD
- Grayson College
- Desoto ISD
- Mansfield ISD

Practice

Audit Services - Public Sector

Education

B.A.A. Professional Accounting from Sul Ross State University

Experience

- More than three years of experience in auditing to governmental and nonprofit entities and three years of experience working in the accounting industry.
- Knowledge of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements under Uniform Guidance.
- Well-versed in TEA FASRG Account Codes
- Responsible for preparing, analyzing, maintaining, and reviewing financial statements, records and reports.
- Performs audit tasks for government and nonprofit engagements including reviewing and testing transactions and internal controls, performing analytical procedures, and documenting audit results.
- Assists clients in the preparation of financial statements.
- Prior business manager in educational institution.

ESTIMATED FEE

	Hours	Standard Hourly Rate	Proposed Rate	Proposed Fee
Partner	48	\$ 520	\$ 390	\$ 18,720
Manager	116	380	270	31,320
Senior	170	295	195	33,150
Associate	164	225	175	28,700
	<u>498</u>			<u>\$ 111,890</u>
Out-of-Pocket Expenses (Confirmations.Com)				<u>1,000</u>
				<u><u>\$ 112,890</u></u>

Fiscal Year	Financial Statement Audit
2025	\$ 112,890
2026	\$ 117,400
2027	\$ 120,300
2028	\$ 123,300
2029	\$ 126,400