



**Date of Board Meeting:** April 16, 2024

**Subject:** Houston Fire Department Fast-Track Programming for Paramedics

**Recommendation:** Waive Out-of-District Fees for HFD Fast-Track Paramedic Program

**Background and Rationale:**

The City of Houston, through the Houston Fire Department (HFD), is collaborating with WCJC to develop a special training program that provides HFD employees with opportunities to pursue higher education and that assists the HFD in alleviating its workforce shortage of first responders, particularly its shortage of Paramedics. The proposal is for WCJC to accept up to two cohorts annually, with a minimum of 15 and maximum of 50 students per cohort into an accelerated one-year curriculum consisting of a 40-hour week instructional schedule (excluding time off for holidays).

HFD requests that WCJC's proposal include all student costs, including but not limited to, tuition, general service and technology fees, books, personal protective equipment, testing fees, clinical parking fees, and instructional materials. The request is to waive the out-of-district fees for this fast-track program. In exchange, WCJC benefits from guaranteed enrollment, assured payment per student, establishment of a strong community partner, and access to more clinical sites and hospitals to expand instructional experiences for all Paramedic students.

WCJC's initial cost to waive out-of-district fees is \$2196 per student (\$61 per semester credit hour x 36 SCH). This expense is somewhat offset by future enrollment growth and its benefits.

**Cost and Budgetary Support:** \$2196 per HFD student, not to exceed 100 students annually

**Strategic Priority Alignment:** ☐ Student Success ☒ Community Impact  
☒ Resource Optimization ☐ Institutional Excellence

**Resource Person(s):** Gary Bonewald, Program Director; Danny Bacot, Dean of Workforce

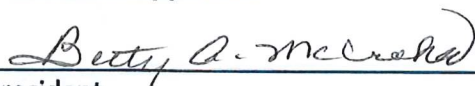
**Signatures:**  4/9/24  4-9-24

**Leigh Ann Collins** Digitally signed by Leigh Ann Collins  
Date: 2024.04.09 15:43:31 -05'00'

Cabinet-Level Supervisor

Date

**President's Approval:**

  
President

4-10-24  
Date