

AGENDA ITEM 8.I.

RE: Approval for Laredo College Employees and Students Out of Country Travel to Spain

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the Out-of-Country travel for Dr. Marissa Guerrero, Director of Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (BASORGL) program, Bianca Cubriel, BASORGL Global Learning and Leadership Coordinator, Ms. Amanda Flores-Del Toro, Career & Innovation Center Director, Dr. Diana Ortiz, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and Mayra Garza, Social Media Specialist, to travel to Spain to observe, collaborate and lead a faculty-led Certificate in Leadership Study Abroad Program. This travel will be the launch of Laredo College's first study abroad in leadership cohort in May 2026. There is an estimate of twelve students in this study abroad cohort.

BACKGROUND: The Certificate in Leadership at Laredo College, recently approved by the Curriculum Committee, is designed for professionals seeking to strengthen their leadership skills and for students aiming to transfer into the Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership program. This one-semester certificate emphasizes practical, project-based learning and leadership development, equipping students with essential competencies for navigating diverse organizational contexts. It also includes an optional study abroad component, providing students with the opportunity to gain a global leadership perspective. This May, our study abroad program will be launching with our first site trip in Spain May 2026. Leadership students will take the HRPO:1493 Special Topics in Organizational Behavior Studies in Spain. The two program leaders, Dr. Guerrero and Bianca Cubriel will be leading the group to all their business sites and academic instruction, Ms. Amanda Flores-Del Toro will be scouting opportunities and partnerships with entrepreneur and incubator sites in Spain for the Career and Innovation Department, Dr. Ortiz will oversee the Institutional Advancement of this program and its success and Mayra Garza will be collecting marketing materials such as video and photos while in Spain to create promotional items for the college to use to promote present and future study abroad cohorts and programs. This travel experience will enable them to gather leadership-focused insights into international education and best practices, helping to lay the foundation for Laredo College's success and continuation of study abroad programs to come.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS: Overall expense: \$23,000; Breakdown: International airfare, Ground transportation, Intra-city flight(s), 3 Company Visits, 10 hotel nights, Meals, Guide, Cultural admission fees, 24/7 emergency support, and embedded medical insurance

Budget Account: 252026.414001.22224.40020- BASORGL Study Abroad Account

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President

Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Marissa Guerrero, Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership Program Director

Dr. Diana Ortiz, Vice President of Institutional Advancement