



**Wharton County
Junior College**

**Proposed Agenda Item
Board of Trustees Meeting**

Date of Board Meeting: 9-20-16

Date of This Proposal: 9-14-16

SUBJECT (item as it will appear on agenda): Seek Bids for Welding Equipment from JET Grant

RECOMMENDATION: Approve request to seek bids for instructional welding simulation equipment using Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grant funding

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Jet Program provides funding for the purchase of instructional equipment necessary to support a program or course(s) for the operation of career and technical education courses or programs that train technicians for high-growth, high-demand occupations in the Texas Gulf Coast Region. WCJC received \$350,000 of grant funds and pledged \$18,642 in matching funds per grant requirements. With these funds, WCJC plans to purchase seven VRTEX 360 virtual reality arc welding trainer systems and accessories. The VRTEX systems allow entry-level students to learn welding technique and body positioning in a realistic, hands-on environment. The simulated environment provides a safer learning setting and conserves material consumption.

Estimated Cost and Budgetary Support (how will this be paid for?): \$350,000 grant funds and \$18,642 WCJC matching funds (FY17 funds)

RESOURCE PERSON(S) [name(s) and title(s)]:

Phillip Wuthrich, Director of Purchasing
Megan Costanza, Dean of Vocational Instructional
Leigh Ann Collins, Vice President of Instruction

SIGNATURES:

Originator

9-14-16

Date

Cabinet-Level Supervisor

9-14-16

Date

PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL:

9-14-16