



Wharton County Junior College

RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT OF HOLD HARMLESS FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF TEXAS

WHEREAS, Community Colleges are the largest sector of higher education in Texas, comprising 47% of all students enrolled in college in the state, and

WHEREAS, Community Colleges produce 92% of all Career and Technical Education Enrollment and Certificates in Texas, and

WHEREAS, Community College enrollments comprise 70% of all Freshmen and Sophomores enrolled in Higher Education in the state, and

WHEREAS, Community Colleges reach a diverse and under-served population, as noted by 44% of credentials awarded to economically disadvantaged students are awarded through a community college, and

WHEREAS, Community Colleges serve a vital role in our state's economy by developing our workforce and preparing students for further academic study, and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of Texas Community Colleges comprises an annual output of \$9.8 billion statewide (based on Fiscal 2019, pre-COVID 19 figures), according to the Office of the Comptroller, and

WHEREAS, Community Colleges are an integral component in driving a robust economy in Texas; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE THAT:

Section 1: The Board of Trustees of the District hereby respectfully requests the state leadership to provide level formula funding for Community Colleges in the next biennium.

Section 2: The Board of Trustees of the District hereby requests that the state leadership consider modest increases to the introduced budget in order to sustain Community Colleges' contributions to the economy. This is especially important as we look to the next biennium and the daunting task of providing workforce training to the Texans affected by the pandemic. While the introduced budget does maintain level formula funding, thirty-one of the fifty college districts will experience reductions in funding relative to the 2020-2021 biennium.

Section 3: The Board of Trustees of the District hereby respectfully asks the state leadership to consider increases in the instructional formula to 100% Hold Harmless the colleges currently stated for a funding decrease. It is estimated that an additional \$49 million is needed to maintain funding for each college at 2020-21 levels.

Section 4: The Board of Trustees of the District desires the state leadership to know that this request for increased funding, despite a decline in the overall state enrollment, comes after serious consideration. These state investments, which will fund community colleges for the future, will ensure that our colleges are positioned to effectively serve the anticipated surge in student enrollments once the pandemic is over. State investments will help our colleges maintain the low tuition rates throughout the entire biennium and after federal funds have been exhausted.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the 20th day of April, 2021.

Chairman, Board of Trustees

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Trustees