

AGENDA ITEM 7.I.

RE: Approval of Budgeted Cash Matching Funds Required for the Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation. Inc. Grant Application to be Submitted on Behalf of Laredo College by the Grants Department. The Laredo College Continuing Education Department will apply to the Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation. Inc. for \$309,658 for the Learn, Train, and Achieve Grant Program. If awarded, this grant will provide funding for workforce skills training for 255 students over the course of two years. This funding also allows for the purchase of equipment for the training programs and requires a dollar-for-dollar match. The request is for Laredo College to provide a cash match of \$105,324 over the two-year grant period.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Trustees approve the following:

1. Matching budgeted funds in the amount of \$105,324 towards student tuition, the purchase of training equipment for the Continuing Education workforce skills training programs, student promotional items, sponsorship for 2 job fairs, and staff professional development.
2. Submission of a grant application to the Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation for \$309,658 (50% of total project expenses);
3. This grant will be funded for a 2-year period from 2026-2027

The Learn. Train. Achieve. (LTA) Grant Program is a Laredo College workforce development initiative designed to accelerate career readiness across the Rio South Texas region. Through this program, participants will engage in continuing education short-term, high-impact training that leads to industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields such as QuickBooks, Dental Assisting, Truck Driving, Construction Management, Human Resources, and Early Childhood Education.

The Rio-South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation (RSTF) is a part of the Rio South Texas Alliance, a new, regional economic development alliance, established with our partners the Council for South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP) and the Rio South Texas Economic Council (RSTEC).

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

Account #: 280001.610000.82018.80000 - Restricted Scholarship - \$105,324

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Diana Ortiz, Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Director of Grants

Ms. Sandra L. Cortez, Dean of Community Education

Ms. Susana Carreon, Restricted Grants Manager - Accounting