

AGENDA ITEM 10.A.

RE: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for United Independent School District Bridging Roads to Independence, Diplomas, Graduation, and Employment (BRIDGE) Academy

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the LC Board of Trustees (BOT) approve the Memorandum of Understanding for United Independent School District Bridging Roads to Independence, Diplomas, Graduation, and Employment (BRIDGE) Academy

BACKGROUND: This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines a formal partnership between Laredo College (LC) and United Independent School District (UISD) to establish and operate the BRIDGE Academy Initiative from August 1, 2025, through August 1, 2027. The BRIDGE Academy is designed to re-engage former UISD students aged 18–26 who left high school without a diploma by providing flexible educational pathways that lead to both high school completion and career certifications. Through this initiative, UISD will provide high school coursework and related instructional support, while LC will offer facilities, college-level instruction, and access to workforce certification programs. The program emphasizes a holistic support model, including counseling, mental health resources, and career services. Both institutions will share responsibilities in program implementation, faculty supervision, curriculum development, and student services, while also committing to FERPA compliance and a shared evaluation process based on student outcomes. The collaboration aims to equip students with the academic credentials and workforce skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education or employment.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS: None.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Minita Ramírez, President

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

Ms. Sandra Cortez, Dean of Community Education