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## Agenda Item 4B

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May 31, 2016

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with The Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) Regarding Blinn Colleges Construction of an Academic Facility(ies) at The TAMUS RELLIS Campus in Bryan, Texas.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board approve and direct the Blinn District President/CEO to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with TAMUS as a Statement of Intent regarding Blinn's construction of an academic facility at the TAMUS RELLIS Campus in Bryan, Texas.

**RATIONALE:**

TAMUS has invited Blinn College to build facilities at its newly announced RELLIS Campus, formerly Riverside Campus, that would allow the College to enter into innovative partnerships with the universities of the Texas A&M University System. Location of a Blinn Facility(ies) on the RELLIS Campus will benefit Blinn College in the following ways at a minimum:

- Creates the opportunity to partner with other organizations and institutions on the RELLIS Campus, including private research and development companies, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).
- Creates the opportunity for shared, co-located facilities that could allow Blinn to save on infrastructure costs and create efficiencies of operation.
- Solidifies Blinn's already strong relationship with Texas A&M, and ties the Blinn College brand more closely to Texas A&M, strengthening Blinn's statewide and national ability to provide an excellent recruiting tool for attracting high-achieving faculty and students.
- Creates new opportunities for Blinn to design and implement programs that align with the RELLIS Campus focus on research for high-end, innovative companies.
- Gives Blinn the opportunity to be part of a new educational community that has not heretofore existed – combining a major university system and a community college at a single physical location.

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:**

The total estimated cost of an initial facility on the RELLIS Campus is \$24-31 million as compared to the \$46.5 million planned for the Harvey Mitchell Parkway Site. This range of cost includes soft costs and construction costs. It does not include any possible shared costs associated with parking, landscaping, or re-design due to costs associated with TAMUS construction and architectural standards. Blinn will use all of the work on the Harvey Mitchell Parkway site that is transferable to the RELLIS campus, valued at approximately \$1 million. RELLIS Campus development will not require taxpayer money in that it can be paid for with revenue bonds already available to Blinn for use anywhere in the Blinn system.

**RESOURCE PERSONNEL:**

Ms. Kelli Shomaker, CFO/Senior Vice President Finance and Administrative Services  
Mr. Richard O'Malley, Assistant Vice President Facilities, Planning, and Construction

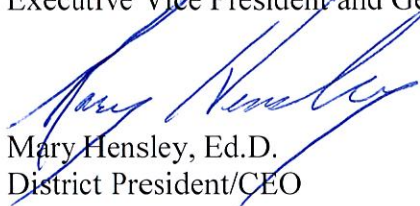
**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A

Respectfully Submitted By:



Mel Waxler  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel



Mary Hensley, Ed.D.  
District President/CEO