

October 20, 2016

The Honorable Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board,
Dr. Raymund Paredes
1200 E. Anderson Lane, Suite 2170
Austin, Texas 78752

Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
and First-Class Mail

Re: Creation of a New Community College in Brazos County

Dear Dr. Paredes:

In accordance with Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 8, Subchapter B, Rule 8.26, Tex. Admin. Code, we, the undersigned, have formed and are a Steering Committee to establish a community college district based in Brazos County with a service area to include Robertson County, Madison County, and Grimes County (the "Brazos County College").

Because the State of Texas Demographer projects Brazos County to double in population by 2050 (<http://txsdc.utsa.edu/data/TPEPP/Projections/Index>) and because Brazos County already lacks and is expected to otherwise continue to lack the sufficient technical and workforce programs to serve the economic development needs of current and future employers, Brazos County needs a community college infrastructure focused exclusively on the needs of the Brazos County and the contiguous counties, and seeks to request the formation of a new community college district for this purpose. Texas is home to 50 community college institutions (many with multiple campuses), serving over 700,000 students (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Fall, 2015). This statistic illustrates the educational, workforce/job training and economic importance of community colleges to urban and rural Texas. Compared to all other regions of Texas, Brazos County is dramatically underserved. Brazos County and the greater Research Valley is one of the fastest growing markets in the State of Texas without comprehensive career and technical training facilities and programs.

Currently, Brazos County has an off-campus instructional site of Blinn College that serves almost 13,000 students in addition to the three other Blinn sites.

Based on The Higher Education Coordinating Board 2016 Almanac (<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/7831.PDF?CFID=49185073&CFTOKEN=61563146>) "Almanac", the ratio of academic transfer to workforce students reported by Blinn College is approximately 88% to 12%, (2016 The Higher Education Coordinating

Board Almanac), whereas most community colleges report an average of 60% academic and 40% technical ratio (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/building-community.aspx>). This is an indicator of limited course and program offerings for career and technical programs to serve the citizens of Brazos County and the contiguous counties. This is underscored by recent in-depth survey, "An Assessment of Current Future Workforce and Training Needs in the Research Valley Education Analysis Area" The Perryman Group, Dr. Ray Perryman, 510 N. Valley Mills Dr., Suite 300, Waco, Texas 76710, the studied the 28 high-skill, high-growth targeted occupation programs and found programs lack in-depth course offerings or were offered at other locations demonstrating that career and technical training deficient at the current instructional site in Brazos County.

The Steering Committee is conducting a feasibility study and a survey of the needs and potential for a community college district in the Brazos County College District Service Area. We believe that there is an urgent demand and need for new and additional community college offerings in the Brazos County College District Service Area to meet the growing demands for workforce development programs, technical programs, and vocational programs. The creation of a Brazos County College District Service Area will also allow for the fulfillment of additional community college programs beyond workforce such as freshman and sophomore courses in arts and sciences, continuing adult education, compensatory education programs, continuing programs of counseling and guidance, adult literacy and other basic skills programs.

Current community college infrastructure serving Brazos County is inadequate to meet the challenges of this rapidly growing general and student population as demonstrated by over-crowded facilities in Bryan, including lack of classrooms and other learning spaces, student resource centers, innovative programs, as well as the needs for increased dedicated faculty. Future expansion for expected student growth and prospective corporate education and training partnership, as well as future innovative post-secondary programs and experiences, demand a comprehensive and long-term community college vision focused primarily on the needs of the Brazos County College District Service Area which is not currently in place. Today, there are no facilities for advanced manufacturing, seamless transfer for resident student populations of Brazos County and surrounding counties, or sufficient programs to retain and expand business in Brazos County to meet the needs of the rapid growth.

In accordance with Section 8.28, TAC, we are in the process of conducting a feasibility study and a survey of the needs, potential student clientele and financial ability for a new community college based in Brazos County and serving the Brazos County College District Service Area. The feasibility study in coordination with the Higher Education Coordinating Board will be conducted by The Perryman Group, 510 N. Valley Mills Dr., Suite 300, Waco, Texas 76710, Attention Dr. M. Ray Perryman, President.

In accordance with Sections 8.26, 8.29, 8.30 and 8.31, TAC, we are in the process of preparing and circulating a petition for an election to establish a community college district based in Brazos County and also serving the Brazos County College District Service Area.

In accordance with Sections 8.22 and 8.32, TAC, we will provide evidence to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board ("THECB") that by the THECB's approving the creation of a new community college based in Brazos County and the Brazos County College District Service Area, it will not create any unnecessary duplication of programs with programs of an existing community college district, specifically Blinn College. We will also provide evidence that there will not be any serious harm to programs of an existing community college, specifically, Blinn College, by among other things, financially compensating Blinn College for the fair market value of its facilities, assets and programs located in Brazos County or in the Brazos County College District Service Area.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to obtain approval from the THECB and the Texas Legislature to establish Brazos County College District. The Brazos County local elected leadership along with a broad spectrum of our business, civic, philanthropic and educational communities are united in this effort eager to bring new, expanded and much needed community college infrastructure to bear on our future. We respectfully request your support in for our endeavor to improve Brazos County.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Andrew Nelson, Co-Chairman of the Brazos County Community College Steering Committee, 1716 Briarcrest Drive, Suite 714, Bryan, Texas, 77802, 979-260-1755.



Michael Beckendorf

Beckendorf Investments

Chair, Research Valley Partnership

2509 River Forest Dr.

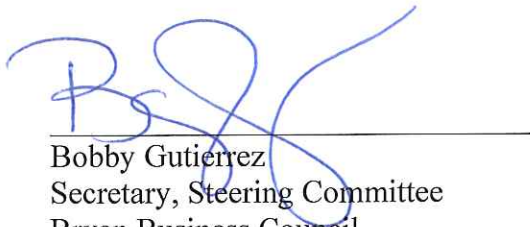
Bryan, Texas 77802

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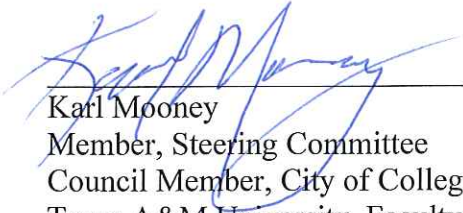
Andrew Nelson
Chairman, Steering Committee
Bryan Business Council
CEO, Lisam America, Inc.
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Ivan Olson
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Karl Mooney
Member, Steering Committee
Council Member, City of College Station
Texas A&M University, Faculty
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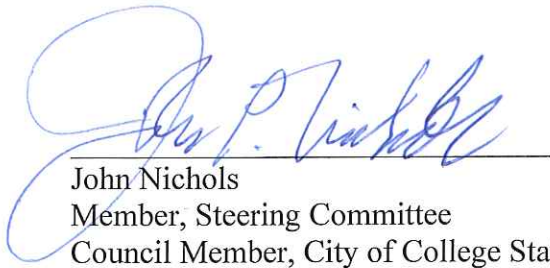
Milton Radke

Member, Steering Committee

Retired, Blinn College Workforce

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John Nichols

Member, Steering Committee

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Karen G. Ferguson

Karen Ferguson

Member, Steering Committee

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RoSharon, Texas 77583



Dr. Tim Rocka
Member, Steering Committee
Deputy Supt., Bryan Independent School District
4461 Winecup Ct.
Chappell Hill, Texas 77426

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Reynolds", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right of the line.

David Reynolds
Member, Steering Committee
Director, Career and Technology
Bryan Independent School District
9791 Palestine Rd.
Brenham, Texas 77833

Dennis Geohring

Dennis Geohring

Member, Steering Committee

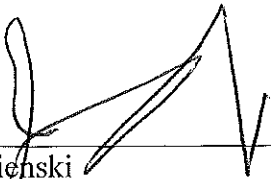
Retired, Technology

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Peter Hugill
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Jason Bienski
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