

January 27, 2023

NOTICE OF MEETING

The **Called Meeting** of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District will convene at **11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 31, 2023**, at the Oso Creek Campus, Culinary Arts Building, Community Room, 7002 Yorktown Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

QUORUM CALL

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DMC VISION STATEMENT: *Del Mar College will be the premier choice for life-changing educational opportunities, provided by responsive, innovative faculty and staff who empower students to improve local and global communities.*

Del Mar College is streaming live audio and video from the official Board of Regents meetings on the College's website in real-time, with the exception of portions of the meeting considered as "closed session" by statute.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (Non-Agenda Items) – 3-minute time limit

- Specific public comments will be allowed on agenda items prior to action by the Board.
- General Public Comments may be moved on the agenda at the discretion of the Board Chair and as an accommodation to those in attendance.
- Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, the College is limited in responding to public comments or inquiries as follows:
  1. Provide a statement of specific factual information in response to an inquiry.
  2. Recite existing policy in response to an inquiry.
  3. Propose placing the subject of the inquiry on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

(Tex. Govt. Code Section § 551.042)



**NOVEMBER BOARD OF REGENTS ELECTION:**

Swearing in of the duly elected member of the Board of Regent.

The oath of office will be administered to Mr. Carl Crull.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding review and adoption of the state and federal legislative priorities and Resolution of Support for the Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TXCCCF) recommendations.....Ms. Mary McQueen  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Public comments for this agenda item

- 2. Discussion and possible action relating to Appointment to fill At Large Regent Vacancy .....Ms. Carol Scott  
*(Goal 5: Workforce Development, Community Partnerships, and Advocacy)*

Public comments for this agenda item

- 3. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:
  - A. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071:** (Consultation with Legal Counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, with possible discussion and action in open session, and the seeking of legal advice from counsel on pending legal or contemplated matters or claims, with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
  - B. **TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.074(a)(1):** (Personnel Matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, including Appointment to fill At Large Regent Vacancy, with possible discussion and action in open session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is given that the Board may elect to go into executive session at any time during the meeting in order to discuss matters listed on the agenda, when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Item 1



# DMC DEL MAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## Board of Trustees

### Executive Committee

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Julio Reyes  
Del Mar College President & CEO  
Mark Escamilla, Ph.D.

Troy Bethel (At Large)  
Lance Brown (Special Projects)  
Regina Garcia (At Large)  
Ken Trevino (Board Dev.)  
Todd Walter (Scholarships)

### Board Members

Kaushik "Charlie" Bhakta  
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Drue Jones  
Tim Legamaro  
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Willie J. Kosarek  
Alice H. Sallee  
Eugene "Gene" Seaman  
Sylvia Whitmore  
Robert C. Wolter  
John T. Wright, III



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Mary C. McQueen, CFRE

Vice President of Advancement  
& Government Relations

January 27, 2023

TO: Mark Escamilla, Ph.D., President and CEO, Del Mar College

FROM: Mary McQueen, Vice President of Advancement and Government Relations, Del Mar College *mm*

RE: Proposed State and Federal Legislative Agenda Priorities and Resolution of Support for TXCCCF recommendations

**SUMMARY:** Del Mar College Board of Regents potential approval of State and Federal Legislative priorities and adoption of resolution of support for Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TXCCCF) recommendations.

**BACKGROUND:** The Del Mar College Board of Regents approves State and Federal Legislative priorities to provide a unified voice in support of initiatives that address community college and Del Mar College concerns. Del Mar College Regent Carol Scott and President Dr. Mark Escamilla served on the TXCCCF and participated in the research and development of the final recommendations. The Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) has adopted the recommendations of TXCCCF as their major initiative for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature with additional priorities to address community college concerns. In addition, TACC/CCATT have requested a resolution of support for TXCCCF recommendations from all 50 Texas community colleges to present a unified voice to the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature on these historic changes to community college funding. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) have submitted recommended priorities for the 118<sup>th</sup> United States Congress which address common community college concerns.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt legislative priorities as established by the TACC/CCATT for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature; adopt legislative priorities established by AACC/ACCT for the 118<sup>th</sup> United States Congress; and adopt a resolution of support for the TXCCCF recommendations.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** TACC/CCATT Legislative Priorities, AACC/ACCT Legislative Priorities, Resolution of Support for TXCCCF recommendations.





# 88th Texas Legislature

2023 Legislative Priorities



The **Texas Association of Community Colleges** (TACC) and the **Community College Association of Texas Trustees** (CCATT) support the following legislative priorities.

## Community College Finance Reform

Support legislation developed from the final recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.

The new proposed model ties funding directly to measurable outcomes such as transfer rates, credentials of value, credentials in high-demand fields, and dual credit. Most notably, it moves away from a funding model that is static to one that is dynamic and provides colleges with predictable funding based on their own success. The recommendations also include additional funds for colleges to support low-income or academically unprepared students, and adult learners.

## Texas Education Opportunity Grants (TEOG)

Texas Education Opportunity Grants are the state's primary method for providing financial aid to community college students. However, colleges are required to provide matching funds to draw down this aid.

TACC seeks to provide the same flexibility allowed for four-year universities to match the financial aid program for their students. Specifically, by allowing Pell Grants to count for that match with TEOG the way they do with TEXAS Grants.

## Cybersecurity & IT Modernization

During the 87th Texas Legislature, HB 4018 was passed establishing a Joint Operations Committee (JOC) of the legislature to oversee state funding for IT modernization projects across state agencies and institutions of higher education. Community colleges submitted reports on their modernization strategies and timelines in the fall of 2022.

TACC will advocate to utilize one-time funding to the extent it's made available, to meet those needs for community colleges should funding be provided to other state agencies or institutions of higher education.

## Clinical Nursing Sites

There is statewide demand for growing our nursing workforce. The Board of Nursing and has noted the lack of clinical nursing hours as a key constraint on the state's nursing pipeline.

TACC will seek to address the nursing shortage and ensure that availability for clinical nursing sites is prioritized for students from Texas community colleges through statutory authority via the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

## Texas Transfer Framework

For the past three years the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has developed and implemented the new Texas Transfer Framework, to improve transferability and portability of credit hours between two-year and four-year institutions, and revise the current Fields of Study curricula. However, the THECB lacks statutory authority to enforce articulated Fields of Study disciplines.

TACC will advocate for additional statutory authority for the THECB to better implement Texas Transfer Framework.





**Resolution of Support**  
**for the Texas Commission on Community College Finance Recommendations**

Whereas, the State of Texas established the Texas Commission on Community College Finance to evaluate community college funding and improve student outcomes through alignment with state postsecondary goals,

Whereas, the Texas Commission on Community College Finance developed their recommendations with input from various stakeholders, including business leaders, lawmakers, college officials, students, and trustees,

Whereas, the recommendations are a historic opportunity to obtain funding to ensure postsecondary student success,

Whereas, the recommendations include performance-based funding based on measurable outcomes,

Whereas, the recommendations include much-needed support for workforce development to produce credentials of value in high-demand fields,

Whereas, the recommendations include support for students enrolling in dual credit programs,

Whereas, the recommendations would provide support to economically and educationally disadvantaged students, as well as adult learners,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Regents of Del Mar College District officially declares its support for the recommendations issued to the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature by the Texas Commission on Community College Finance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of this Board.

ADOPTED THIS 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2023 by the Board of Regents of Del Mar College District.

Del Mar College District

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Carol Scott, Board Chair

Board of Regent

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Rudy Garza, Jr., Secretary

Board of Regent



## 2023 COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Bolster The Role of Community Colleges in Workforce Development**

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#### **Strengthen the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

Enhance WIOA, and with that the national economy, by bolstering the role of community colleges in the federal workforce development system. Community colleges should be a guaranteed part of the leadership apparatus for workforce development policy at both the state and local levels. The system should prioritize credential attainment and streamline reporting requirements. Greater training opportunities should be provided.

#### **Authorize a Major Community College-Led Job Training Program**

Congress should once again enact major support for the community college workforce education mission, as it did previously with the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) program. The TAACCCT program significantly increased credential attainment and job placement, but the skills gap persists. Congress can achieve this goal by authorizing and growing the Strengthening Community College Training Grants program in a WIOA reauthorization or reauthorizing the TAACCCT program itself.

### **Fund Key Education and Workforce Programs**

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#### **Support Student Access and Success**

Boost the Pell Grant maximum award, at minimum by an inflationary adjustment, and set the long-term goal to double the Pell Grant from the 2021-22 award year. Pell Grants enable millions of low-income community college students to pay tuition and fees and meet other college expenses and is the foundation of all other student aid. Increasing the maximum award promotes affordability and student success for low-income students, while reducing their need to borrow.

Funding increases should also be provided for key financing and student support programs such as the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), Postsecondary Student Success, and Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students programs.

#### **Strengthen Under-Resourced Institutions**

Increase funding for institutional aid programs including Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Title III-A Strengthening Institutions; Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs); Tribal Colleges; and other programs serving traditionally underrepresented populations. Robust funding for these programs will help reduce achievement gaps at community colleges and other institutions.

#### **Bolster Job Training and Career and Technical Education**

Continue to support community college training programs that lead to jobs in in-demand industries by increasing funding for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants program administered by the Department of Labor, now entering its fourth year.

Enhance funding for Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants, state grants under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program.

### **Support Dreamers**

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#### **Enact the Dream Act**

Enact the Dream Act, once and for all, to give Dreamers permanent legal status. The Dream Act provides a path to citizenship for undocumented young people, including the thousands of students currently enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Dreamers were brought to the U.S. as minors and frequently know no other nation besides America. More importantly, they make substantial contributions to the U.S. economy and society. Dreamers should also be able to access Title IV student aid funding. The DREAM Act has traditionally garnered bipartisan support and work toward this goal must continue.



## **Reform Student Aid for Today's Students**

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### **Support Workforce Pell Grants for Students in Short-Term Programs**

Establish Pell Grant eligibility for shorter-term programs, accompanied by rigorous and relevant quality standards. Currently, programs must be two-thirds of a year in order to be eligible for Pell Grants. This excludes many community college workforce-oriented programs that greatly benefit both students and local businesses. Many students cannot participate in these programs because of their cost. Community colleges support lowering the threshold for Pell Grant eligibility to 150 clock hours, as in the JOBS Act and the REAL Reforms Act, which would increase access to these programs.

### **Invest in Basic Needs Supports for Students**

Support policies that address the needs of students by providing greater access to basic needs services. Title IV assistance is rarely generous enough to cover all necessities such as food, housing, transportation, childcare, and medical expenses for many community college students. Congress should address the basic needs of the whole student by:

- Increasing the capacity of community colleges to connect students with supportive services to help them persist and succeed in postsecondary education. The promising new Basic Needs and Postsecondary Student Success programs tackle some of these issues and should be greatly expanded. Title IV student aid programs also can be better integrated with income-maintenance programs.
- Strengthening existing federal programs, including the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), to meet students' true needs.
- Ensuring health care programs for low-income individuals are accessible to community college students.

### **Allow for Responsible Borrowing Loans**

Support responsible student borrowing by tying borrowing limits to enrollment intensity. Limiting part-time students to pro-rated debt will help students manage their debt load through program completion and decrease the likelihood they will face difficulties in repayment.

### **Utilize Accountability and Transparency Policies that Reflect Needs of Community Colleges**

Create a federal student unit record system to generate accurate, meaningful student-level data on postsecondary outcomes, including post-completion earnings. Ensure that cohort default rates or any loan-driven accountability measures reflect the incidence of student borrowing and the student body generally. The combination of these proposals will provide accountability and transparency that is responsive to the community college mission while maintaining integrity in the student aid programs.

## **Focus Student Tax Policy on Those Who Can Benefit Most**

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### **End the Taxation of Pell Grants, and Modify the AOTC & LLC**

Make Pell Grants tax-free. Under current law, community college students must pay taxes on any portion of their Pell Grants that is used to help meet living expenses. These expenses are every bit as tangible as tuition and should not be taxed as this practice further dilutes the aid students rely on.

Community colleges also support altering the \$2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) so that Pell Grant awards are not subtracted from a student's eligible expenses. This would dramatically enhance the ability of low-income students to qualify for the credit. Making this change would help hundreds of thousands of community college students receive the maximum credit of \$2,500 each year.

These changes were embodied in the "Tax Free Pell Grant Act," which received bipartisan support in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Similar legislation should be enacted in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## **Farm Bill**

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### **Support Rural Community Colleges**

Create federal funding streams for community colleges to support rural economic development, particularly in the agricultural sector. Rural community colleges play an increasing role in training workers to support agriculture and ag-related fields. Providing grants to assist community colleges for agricultural and natural resources would support the growing need for an agricultural workforce that needs skilled training.

### **Increase Access to SNAP**

Support streamlining of access to SNAP benefits for community college students, preventing bureaucratic barriers and increasing participation among eligible students.