

Erie County Technical School Foundation
AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 21, 2006

SUBJECT: Funding to Support a Technical Community College

DESCRIPTION: Across the Northwest Pennsylvania seven-county region, the technical community college (TCC) proposal is receiving support from all stakeholder groups—school district, business and industry, community service, and legislative. The initial support has come from stakeholder groups with the most influence associated with the TCC proposal. As the support grows, so too does the need to provide more support for the proposal's development.

The TCC initiative is approaching two issues that have a bearing on its continued development. The “kick-off” of the TCC idea has been handled primarily by the career and technical center directors, Workforce Investment Board staff and representatives from the higher education councils in the region. The next steps require more of a concentrated and dedicated effort. The first issue is personnel—the need for an individual (or individuals) to serve as a project coordinator. One of the early responsibilities of the project coordinator will be to continue to solicit support from the many stakeholders. As expected, this would involve meetings with individuals and presentations to groups across the seven-county region. There will also be the need to meet with individuals and agencies in Harrisburg and other parts of the state.

A second responsibility of the project coordinator will be to facilitate the creation of a steering committee. The steering committee will have the responsibility to advise the design and development of the TCC model. The project coordinator would also be responsible for working with the steering committee in the composition of the PDE application for approval of the community college. The application is the third major responsibility of the project coordinator.

Of course, a service contract will be necessary for a project coordinator. There will also be expenses associated with the work of the coordinator (i.e. travel, communication, supplies). Hence, the second issue—financial support. While there are efforts to secure funding from other community sources, there needs to be some initial financial support from the education community. The ECTS Foundation is well-positioned to make an initial contribution to the TCC initiative. The Foundation has a purpose of promoting career and technical education. It also has sufficient financial resources. A contribution from the ECTS Foundation would be an excellent example for the other members of the educational community. It would also demonstrate to other stakeholders the commitment of the Erie County educational community.

A chart depicting the progress to date and identifying additional work follows this motion.

RECOMMENDATION: Motion to authorize \$25,000 in expenditures to support the continued development of the Technical Community College for Northwest Pennsylvania. Appropriate expenditures for this motion include a contract for project management and all customary expenses including travel, communication and supplies.

Northwest Pennsylvania
Technical Community College
Regional Progress Chart

9/21/2006

Career & Technical Schools	Clarion	Corry	Crawford	Erie City	Erie County	Mercer	Venango	Warren
Action Steps								
PAC Presentation	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
JOC Presentation	Yes				Yes	Yes	Partial	
JOC Resolution	Yes				Yes			
Faculty Presentation					Yes	Yes		
District Presentations	Scheduled				Yes			
District Resolutions	0 of 7	0 of 1	0 of 3	0 of 1	7 of 11	0 of 12	0 of 6	0 of 1
Community Group Presentations	RCWE/WIB	RCWE/WIB, Corry Industrial Roundtable	RCWE/WIB, Crawford County Vision	RCWE/WIB, MANP, Chamber, Erie Community Foundation	RCWE/WIB, MANP, Chamber, Erie Community Foundation	General Advisory Council	RCWE/WIB	RCWE/WIB
Community Group Resolutions		MANP	MANP	MANP	MANP			
Legislator Presentations	Peterson, Specter & Santorum Reps.	Specter & Santorum Reps., Earll, Sonney	Specter & Santorum Reps., Robbins	Specter & Santorum Reps., Earll	Specter & Santorum Reps., Earll, Sonney	Specter & Santorum Reps., Robbins	Specter & Santorum Reps., Peterson, Rapp	Specter & Santorum Reps., Peterson
Project Coordinator Contracted								
Steering Committee Formed								
1. School District								
2. Legislative								
3. Business/Industry								
Design Consultant Contracted								
Community Survey								
Industry Survey								
Application Written								
Application Submitted								

Presentations to Schedule	English, Other Regional State Legislators, County Commissioners and Councils, Chambers of Commerce, Governor's Action Team, PA Commission of Community Colleges, Erie Times-News Editorial Board, Northwest Industrial Resource Center, Other Industry and Labor Groups/Councils, College Presidents, Community Service Groups/Agencies
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