DCCCD Legislative Priorities for 2015

During the 84th session of the Texas Legislature in 2015, the Dallas County Community College District urges legislators to support five primary priorities that reflect those of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, the Texas Success five-point campaign and the strategic priorities of the DCCCD Board of Trustees, plus two additional priorities for our district: aligning skills with the workforce; measuring and funding success; collaborating on college readiness; creating pathways for transfer and articulation; and providing Texas students with the tools and resources for Adult Basic Education and financial aid enhancements.

Workforce Skills and Alignment
- Continue and enhance money for the Skills Development Fund to expand the ability of community colleges to work with multiple employers and to better serve students and workforce needs in their state regions.
- Continue and enhance funding for the Jobs and Education for Texans program, which allows Texas community colleges to purchase critical equipment needed to meet the demands of local industries.

Measuring and Funding Success
- Support the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s recommendation to provide $2.011 billion in funding for community college and technical college instruction.
- Continue the new funding strategy implemented during the 83rd session of the Texas Legislature: $50 million for core college operations for the 2016-17 biennium and $1 million per college district; student success points (10 percent of the remainder); and contact hours (90 percent of the remainder).
- Fund 2016-17 biennium student success points at a rate no less than the rate funded for student success points for the 2014-15 biennium ($185 per student success point).

College Readiness
- Fund both community colleges and school districts to support the collaboration cited in HB 5; this funding will help create better alignment and pathways for students.

Transfer and Articulation
- Require the use of the common course numbering system at all institutions of higher education, which will enhance the ability of both students and college advisors to clearly understand course transfer. Currently, all community colleges in Texas use the common course numbering system, but not all public universities do that.
- Encourage the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to review 10,000 transcripts of students who transferred from a community college to a university in order to identify obstacles to the transfer process.

Texans in Community College
- Provide sufficient funding for Adult Basic Education because Texas currently only provides funds to serve approximately 100,000 ABE learners statewide while more than 3 million are eligible.
- Increase funding for the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) in proportion to any increase for the Texas Grants program.

Additional Priorities for DCCCD
- Grant DCCCD the authority to offer a baccalaureate degree in early childhood development to meet a teacher shortage and to provide access to pre-K programs for more young children.
- Give DCCCD a local control option for any legislation that would allow concealed license holders (CHL) to carry handguns on campus; and give to the district a local control option for any legislation that would amend the “Noriega Bill,” which permits undocumented students who meet certain conditions to pay in-state tuition.