

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Agenda Report
For the Trustee Meeting Date of May 202008

ITEM # 15

ITEM TITLE: *(Please define the subject; e.g., change order – Berkeley City College)*

Consider Request for Authorization to Apply for Special Funding with the U.S. Department of Education's Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) and Peralta Community College District.

SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Merritt College is requesting authorization from the Peralta Board of Trustees to submit an application for a Title III Comprehensive Development Grant from the Department of Education. The deadline was announced Tuesday, April 22, 2008 and the submission date is May 22, 2008. If funded, the Title III grant would provide \$1.5 million over five years to help develop a comprehensive plan to integrate the college's academic programs and student support services. The ultimate goal is to significantly improve the student academic performance indicators in retention, persistence, successful course completion, and transfer by strengthening pathways, systems, and services to support student success. The Chancellor recommends approval.

ITEM SUMMARY: *(PLEASE DISCUSS THIS ITEM)*

The purpose of the project, entitled *Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success*, is to significantly improve student performance rates at Merritt, particularly for at-risk students, through greater integration of academic programs and student support services. After three years of investigation, informed by the Title III Planning Grant process, the Equity for All Project Scorecard Project, the district's and college's Educational Master Planning processes, Accreditation Self-Study, 2008 Internal and External Scan Reports, and other college planning initiatives, the Merritt Title III team concluded that the greatest single problem facing Merritt is that its student academic performance measures are lower-than-average or declining—particularly for specific sub-sets of the student population. The analysis of this problem led to the identification of three significant problems: 1) unacceptable student success rates (e.g. retention, persistence, successful course completion, and transfer rates), particularly in both basic skills and general education courses; 2) lack of shared philosophy and consistency in instructional strategies for a diverse and under-prepared student body; 3) delivery systems for support services to students are not sufficient to produce positive student outcomes.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS:

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve application for funds.

SOURCE OF FUNDS (AND FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT):

US Department of Education

OTHER DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THIS ACTION (E.G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY):

YES _____ No X

COMMENTS:

WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THIS ITEM AT THE BOARD MEETING?

Presenter: Vice Chancellor Gary Yee/Linda Berry

DID A BOARD STANDING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ITEM? YES _____ No _____

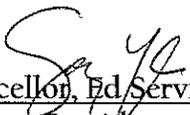
IF "YES", PLEASE INCLUDE THAT INFORMATION IN YOUR SUMMARY.

PLEASE ACQUIRE SIGNATURES IN THIS ORDER:

DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:

Prepared by: Carmen N. Fairley, Staff Services Specialist  Date: 4/28/08
[Enter Your Name and Title of Individual]

DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY:

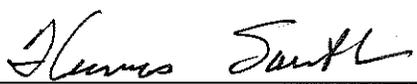
Prepared by: Gary Yee, Vice Chancellor, Ed Services  Date: 4/28/08
[Enter Name of College President or Vice-Chancellor or Manager,
& Title of Individual]

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Finance review required Finance review *not* required

If Finance review is required, determination is: Approved Not Approved

If not approved, please give reason: _____

Signature:  Date: 5.12.08
Thomas Smith, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

GENERAL COUNSEL (Legality and Format/adherence to Education Codes):

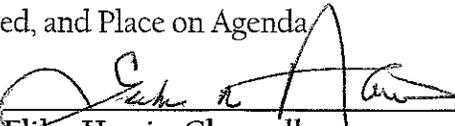
Legal review required Legal review *not* required

If Legal review is required, determination is: Approved Not Approved

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Thuy T. Nguyen, General Counsel

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE APPROVAL

Approved, and Place on Agenda Not Approved, but Place on Agenda

Signature:  Date: 5/13/08
Ethu Harris, Chancellor