

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

August 11, 2021

TOPIC: Hy-Flex Technology Purchase for Pikes Peak Community College

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Lance Bolton, President

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Transform the student experience.
- Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.
- Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

EXPLANATION:

During the early stages of the COVID 19 pandemic, Pikes Peak Community College (PPCC or College) along with all other educational institutions nationwide, quickly found itself in a position of needing to meet the educational needs of its students while continuing to provide first-rate instruction in a virtual setting. Although the College continued to offer students the traditional online learning option, we knew it was not a preferred or well-suited option for a vast majority of our students. We investigated several other educational delivery methods and found the “hy-flex” delivery to be an excellent alternative to the more traditional online instructional delivery method.

A hy-flex course is a course that allows each student to choose whether they attend class in person in the classroom, through web-conferencing into the live classroom, or online at their own time. Students can choose the way they attend each class – for example, go to the first class meeting in the classroom, attend the second class meeting from home through videoconferencing, and work on materials for the third class meeting online on their own time.

We piloted several hy-flex courses for the summer 2020 semester. Feedback from faculty and students was very positive and we quickly determined and envisioned this dual modality of instruction would continue post-COVID 19. Over the past twelve (12) months, the College has added hy-flex technology to approximately 50 classrooms across its campuses. Our purchase of hy-flex technology was all secured using the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) money. With the additional monies the College received from its Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the America Rescue Plan (ARP) Act allocation, we intend to outfit all classrooms across all campuses with hy-flex technology. Our goal is to complete additional rooms at a pace of approximately 25 or more per semester until all classrooms are equipped with hy-flex technology.

PPCC has approximately 120 classrooms to equip with hy-flex technology. Hy-flex equipment consists of high-definition cameras, coupled with ceiling microphones, and large format displays, all connected to the instructor's computer station, to broadcast live classroom instruction over Zoom, WebEx, or MS Teams. Each classroom will cost approximately \$17,500.00 to outfit or a total of \$2.1 million. All necessary purchases will be procured using a State awarded vendor thus eliminating the need to bid out this purchase.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the technology purchase as outlined above and delegate signature authority of the Board to the System Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration on the condition that all Board and State processes are followed.