

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

October 12, 2022

TOPIC: Front Range Community College – Larimer Campus: Spending Authority for a Dental Hygiene Program

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Colleen Simpson, President

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal 4: Refine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

EXPLANATION:

Front Range Community College (FRCC or College) is requesting permission to spend up to \$4.0 million from unrestricted general reserves to renovate approximately 5,000 square feet of space in Grays Peak (Health Care Careers Center Building) on the College's Larimer Campus for a new dental hygiene program. The spending request also includes funds for up to ten (10) new dental chairs, miscellaneous dental equipment (such as a portable x-ray machines, sterilization equipment), furniture, and IT equipment.

The College has for some time been considering creating a dental hygiene program but was restricted by space limitations. Grays Peak, the newest building on the Larimer Campus, was designed to easily allow for this type of expansion. Over the past year or so, the College has started the process of creating this program. We have already received program approval from the College's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission, and we will work to receive accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The College does have a dental assisting program that is CODA accredited and we are confident the hygiene program will receive CODA accreditation when we formally apply. CODA accreditation is a multi-year process and the College will start the accreditation process as soon as possible.

In addition, the College applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$835,000 from the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCF) to be used to help off-set the cost for the new program. While the DDCF grant is a welcomed and very much appreciated investment, it is not sufficient to fund the entire needs associated with standing up the new program. Therefore, the College will fund any remaining balance to complete program needs.

As part of accepting the DDCF grant, the College has agreed to provide a naming opportunity for DDCF for the dental hygiene area. The College will follow System President's Procedure (SP) 16-50 (Naming of College Facilities and Programs) regarding naming rights of a program.

The College sees the dental hygiene program as a win-win for our students and Northern Colorado. The program will allow our students to enter a high demand career, obtain a family livable wage immediately upon graduation, and aid in meeting Northern Colorado's needs for dental hygienists. As part of the program, we would expand services at our community dental clinic. The current dental clinic provides our dental assisting students the ability to learn to assist a dentist and a dental hygienist. By expanding the services offered at the clinic to include dental

hygiene services, the College will be able to increase the number of appointments to well over 2,000 slots per year. The services offered at the clinic are provided to community members at a low cost, which is a rarity in Northern Colorado. The clinic will serve patients two years old and up, which we believe will have a huge positive impact on the overall health of the community members we serve.

In addition to the benefits detailed above, the College will actively recruit underrepresented students from assisting programs to pursue enrollment in the hygiene program. In fact, the College will commit to holding seats for assisting program graduates from accredited programs who meet eligibility requirements to enter into the hygiene program. And in time, it is likely the College will offer a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. A bachelor's degree program will offer specialized course work in topics that include forensic dentistry, leadership management, and research methodologies. This additional content would further expand employment opportunities and provide great income potential for our hygiene graduates.

We anticipate 17 student FTEs in year 1 (FY24), increasing to 64 student FTEs in year 3 (FY26). Projected revenue for year 1 is \$171,000, increasing to \$1,017,000 in year 3. The revenue projection includes the \$154.80 credit hour tuition differential for dental hygiene. Expenses include one faculty member year 1, one dentist and two faculty year 2, and two dentists and three faculty year 3. The anticipated net operating income increases over the first three years, \$16,000 in year 1 to \$280,000 in year 3.

As of July 1, 2022, College reserves were \$52.8 million or 41.4% of operating expenses. With this project and other funded expenditures, projected ending reserve will be \$46.6 million or 32.8% of operating expenses.

If our request is approved, the College will immediately begin the process of securing an architect and contractor. Our hope is that construction and purchase of all necessary equipment can begin in May 2023 and be completed by the end of calendar year 2023. The program is scheduled to start in fall semester 2023, with students completing a year of pre-requisites. During this time the program will pursue accreditation. Program specific coursework for dental hygiene will launch in fall 2024 when the first cohort has completed their prerequisites.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the spending authority for Front Range Community College in the amount of \$4.0 million and delegate the signature authority of the board to the FRCC President on the condition that all State and Board required processes are met.