




November 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Board of Trustees
FROM: Jim Murdaugh, President 
SUBJECT: Approval of Eagle Connections Program and Fee.

Item Description:

This item presents a new program at TCC for students with developmental disabilities who have earned a special diploma.

Overview:

The EAGLE Connections program aims to provide a program in higher education to students with developmental disabilities. Such a program is not available within a reasonable distance for graduating students. The program meets a specific need in the community and has considerable support from parents and schools. This program's outcomes are to increase the independence skills and employability of adults with developmental disabilities. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) has language that supports such programs and makes them eligible for Title IV funds. The proposed program is modeled after programs at Clemson University (LIFE program) and the University of Massachusetts (THINK College).

Salient Facts:

Program will be self-funded based on special fee to be charged. There is already significant support from the community and parents of students who would be eligible.

The proposed program fees are significantly less than similar programs nationwide. Such a program would provide a service not currently offered in our community.

A curriculum model for the program has been developed based on the ten domains of learning identified by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA).

Past Actions:

There have been no past actions on this item.

Future Actions:

Begin the initial cohort in Spring 2012 as a pilot with full implementation in Fall 2012.

Funding/Financial Matters:

Program will be funded by a fee of \$3500.00 per student.

Staff Resource:

Sharon P. Jefferson

Recommended Action:

Request Board approval for lab fees.