

AGENDA ITEM 7.J.

RE: Approval of budgeted cash matching funds required for a grant application to be submitted on behalf of Laredo College by the Grants Department. The Laredo College Grants Department will apply for the 2026-2027 Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation Grant to benefit the Laredo College Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (BASORG) program and students. The grant period is January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027 and the proposed application amount is \$250,000.

- 1) This grant will provide \$250,000 in funding for student leadership and skills development, student scholarships, leadership training modules and programmatic support in equipment/software for a 12 month grant period and 1-2 cohorts.
- 2) This funding also allows for the purchase of equipment/software for the training programs and requires a dollar per dollar match.
- 3) The request requires a 100% Cash Match (\$1 for \$1) from Laredo College in the amount of \$250,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Trustees approves the following:

The submission of a grant application by the Laredo College Grants Office to the Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation. Inc. in the amount of \$250,000

1. Cash Matching budgeted funds in the amount of \$250,000
2. Rio South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation will contribute \$250,000 for a total one-year project period (12 months)

The Rio-South Texas Education and Community Development Foundation (RSTF) is a part of the Rio South Texas Alliance, a regional economic development alliance, established with our partners the Council for South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP) and the Rio South Texas Economic Council (RSTEC). Along with the private business community, RSTF are working diligently to support business in leading economic and talent development efforts throughout the 7-county Rio South Texas region including: Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, Willacy and Zapata counties inclusive of the municipios on the southern riverbank.

BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

Account #: 280001.610000.82018.80000 - Restricted Scholarship

CONTACT PERSONS:

Dr. Diana Ortiz - Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Mr. Gabriel Lozano, Director of Grants
Dr. Marissa Longoria Guerrero, BASORG