



To: LCCC Board of Trustees

From: Joe Schaffer, President

Date: December 1, 2021

Subject: Request for Spending Authority for Automotive Program Modernization

Last spring, I advanced a recommendation to close our Auto Body Repair program. Although we had compelling support to retain the program, it did not override the evidence and outcomes we had about the program's viability in its current form and fashion. Significant changes to the industry presented a challenge, but also an opportunity. This opportunity comes in the form of a modernization of both our Auto Body and Automotive Technician curricula. You allowed me the opportunity to work with the LCCC faculty and staff to develop a plan that would allow us to preserve aspects of the existing programs while also updating the overall automotive programmatic tracks to ensure their efficiency and ability to meet current and future demands.

As you may recall, the office of the Governor awarded LCCC approximately \$200,000 from his Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding the state received as part of the COVID-19 federal CARES act. These funds were to be used to preserve educational functionality, programming and personnel where the impacts of the pandemic had resulted in risks to losing these options. The pandemic's impact on the state's economy precipitated financial duress, that duress resulted in budget reductions to the community college, which resulted in difficult decisions at LCCC about what we eliminated or reduced. Thus, the \$200,000 was intended to help us preserve this type of programming.

In addition, LCCC has received its own allocation of funding through the various federal stimulus acts (i.e., CARES, CRRSSA, and ARPA). This came in the form of the Higher Education Emergency Relief, or HEERF funding, and this funding allowed for relief to budgetary areas impacted by the pandemic. As a result, and as I have presented to the Board, the College has one-time funding opportunities for strategic activities that help us address issues associated with the pandemic and to sustain educational opportunities for our students.

It is estimated that the modernization of the automotive programs will require some significant investments. These investments will be in new equipment, technology upgrades, facilities modifications, and some training. The faculty, Dean, and Vice President of Academic Affairs are well on their way to meeting your expectations for a modernized program. To do so, they will need to expend the funds we have available for this work, and for that I require your authorization because the threshold will exceed your policy limits.

To that end, I am seeking your approval to expend up to \$700,000 for the purpose of modernization of the automotive program offerings at LCCC. This funding will come from the Governor's allocated GEER funds (\$200,000), and institutional funds made available as a result of HEERF allocations direction to LCCC (\$500,000). Thank you for your support and consideration of this request.

Staff Recommendation: That the Board of Trustees authorizes the President to expend up to \$700,000 for the purpose of modernizing the automotive program offerings at LCCC, with the funding coming from the one-time allocations from the Governor's GEER funding and institutional funds made available as a result of the federal HEERF funding to LCCC.