



May 22, 2025

**TO:** THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

**FROM:** DR. KATHLEEN PLINSKE  
President

**RE:** PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION, STEP CG, LLC.

On September 5, 2024, the District Board of Trustees authorized the Carryforward Spending Plan for the 2023-2024 Fund Balance, which allocated \$9,220,000 to fund projects proposed in the Information Technology Capital Plan. As part of this plan, the College is proposing upgrades to the existing backbone network to support infrastructure modernization efforts. These upgrades will strengthen the College's core infrastructure and security for the next five years, ensuring the college's network can meet the evolving demands of applications and services that support college operations. This comprehensive solution will protect digital assets from unauthorized access, data breaches, and other cyber threats, while also expanding capacity and redundancy in the backbone network.

In accordance with Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) 6A-14.0734 (2)(g), Valencia leveraged Florida Department of Management Services Alternate Contract 43220000-NASPO-19-ACS, Data Communications Product and Services, conducted by NASPO Value Point, a public purchasing group, to obtain the best possible price through NASPO's contracted manufacturer, Extreme Networks, Inc. In accordance with the terms of the NASPO contract, Valencia will procure the products through Step CG, LLC., a national partner authorized by the manufacturer to fulfill orders under the contract.

To avoid an imminent 30% cost increase, the College seeks approval to proceed with this purchase immediately, ensuring cost containment while advancing this critical network infrastructure project. The total cost is \$640,613, which includes the required hardware, licensing, and maintenance.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College authorize the College to purchase the Extreme Network equipment at a total cost of \$640,613, from their national partner, Step CG., as presented.

  
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President