



December 16, 2020

TO: THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF VALENCIA COLLEGE

FROM: SANFORD C. SHUGART
President

RE: AWARD OF CAMPUS WIFI ENHANCEMENTS

Thousands of students, faculty and staff rely on consistent WIFI service coverage while pursuing academic and administrative pursuits on Valencia College's campuses. Historically, Valencia has experienced challenges with maintaining effective WIFI coverage on its campuses. To further complicate matters, on March 13, 2020 the College transitioned to a fully online learning environment that negatively impacted many students who have difficulty accessing strong and consistent WIFI at their homes. Consequently, many of these students drove to campus to sit and work in their cars in the Campus parking lots, hoping to access a stronger signal with the College's WIFI system in order to complete their on-line assignments. Unfortunately, the College's WIFI coverage did not always provide that access.

The current wireless infrastructure on our campuses was installed approximately seven years ago, at a time when a much smaller percentage of students took distance-learning classes. At that time, students, faculty and staff did not have as strong of a reliance on technology as is the case today. Today, the majority of our students bring multiple devices to campus, all competing for access to WIFI. In addition, students are engaged in both on-campus and online classes, which increases the need for better WIFI access as students work both on and off campus to complete their assignments. Very importantly, Valencia offers safety apps to assist in campus security efforts that rely on strong WIFI access to communicate with students and employees in all areas of the campuses.

At the June 24, 2020 District Board of Trustees meeting, the Board approved the College's engagement of Presidio Network Solutions LC (RFQ 2020-08) to complete WIFI enhancements on the East Campus, based on the most critical need as well as the relevant implementation periods as driven by the CARES act funding. This Board-approved work is currently underway and proceeding as expected (on budget and on time).

This request leverages the prior RFQ with and engagement of Presidio Network Solutions LC, and the benefits of continuity of Presidio's service delivery, Presidio's high quality presentation of its previous and current proposals, its experience working with Embry Riddle, the University of Central Florida, Seminole State College, Daytona State College, the School District of Osceola County and Orange County Public Schools, and its positive prior work experience with Valencia College. It is important to note that Florida law exempts the procurement of information technology resources from the requirement to solicit formal competitive offers. Due to the tight implementation deadline relating to CARES funding, the College determined that it was in its best business interests to observe this exemption in this instance, the approval of which would result in a contract award to Presidio for

services that will not exceed \$1,500,000 for the project, pending Board approval.

Consistent with the guidance received from United States Department of Education Secretary DeVos on April 21, 2020, certain CARES funding received by the College should expand the remote learning environment and build on the information technology capacity to support online programs. The College believes this WIFI system upgrade qualifies for funding from the CARES Act Section 18004 (c) based on this guidance.

RECOMMENDATION:

The President recommends that the District Board of Trustees of Valencia College authorize the College to enter into a contract with Presidio Networked Solutions LLC for the completion of enhanced WI-FI on Valencia campuses (other than our East Campus) at a cost not to exceed \$1,500,000.



President