

Chairman Dutton, Vice Chair Lozano and Committee Members, Thank you for allowing me to testify today. Paris Junior College's service area is five and one-half counties. Our main campus is in Paris and we have Centers in Greenville and Sulphur Springs. Every school district in the service area is within 25 minutes of a campus.

## **DUAL CREDIT PARTNERSHIPS**

Paris Junior College has offered dual credit in some high schools for 30 plus years. We currently have dual credit partnerships with 30 high schools which include 27 ISDs, one charter school and two private schools. Our dual credit enrollment has grown from 1,250 students in 2010 to 1,778 in the fall 2021 or 20.2% to 41.0% of our total enrollment. The average number of dual credit hours at the time of high school graduation is 25 semester credit hours. At May graduation this year, there were 109 high school students who received associate degrees.

We have a partnership with Greenville ISD in an Early College High School offering an Associate of Science in Engineering. We have three existing P-Tech partnerships with ISDs and adding two additional this fall. We have partnerships with several school districts with Grow Your Own Teacher programs.

Dual credit partnerships are tailored to the needs and wants of each school district.

Of the 30 high schools, 19 pay at least a portion of the dual credit tuition for the student. PJC charges \$50 per sch for in-district students and \$60 per sch for out-of-district academic core classes. Or, \$150 for a 3-hour course in-district and \$180 for out of district. This is compared to regular tuition and fees of \$252 for a 3 hours in-district and \$402 for out-of-district.

PJC provides a scholarship allotment to provide for one free class each semester for students on free and reduced lunch.

We have advisors assigned to each school district. Students are placed on a program map within a semester of entering dual credit. Dual credit students can access all college resources on campus and online. We do everything we can to make dual credit accessible within our service area.

**CHALLENGES:**

Reduced tuition rates: Waiving the fees and a portion of the tuition has had a significant impact on our tuition and fee revenue.

Taking courses that will not go towards a degree: is another challenge. Students take what is available at their high school and often times it will be a course that will not go towards their degree.

## **UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Paris Junior College teaches Developmental Math on the Texas A&M Commerce campus. We also do a Transfer Summit with A&M Commerce every two years to assure seamless transfer on all programs and to align course content.

Texas A&M University Texarkana -Seamless transfer and partner in financial aid awarding for co-enrolled students.

Texas A&M University College Station – 2+2 Articulation Agreements in Biomedical Science and Public Health

University of Texas M.D. Anderson – 2+2 Articulation Agreements in clinical laboratory science, cytogenetic technology, cytotechnology, histotechnology and molecular genetic technology.

Additional articulation agreements with public state universities in Texas and universities in bordering states.

## **INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS**

We have industry partnerships and health care partnerships throughout our service area. Recently, we have been fortunate to receive four TRUE grants to help meet the needs of local business and industry for industry readiness to prepare for entry level positions in local industry, welding for trailer manufacturers, information technology in partnership with Dallas College and Tarrant County College, and healthcare with Grayson College.

Our industry partnerships include:

Paris Junior College-Hunt County Manufacturing Consortium DOL Apprenticeship for Industrial Maintenance Technicians

Customized training for our local industries most often with PLC training.

We have partnered with 8 trailer companies to develop a curriculum tailored to meet their needs. The trailer companies in Lamar County alone are projected to need 1,000 new welders over the next 3 to 5 years. We identified the magnitude of the need in April, met with all the trailer manufacturers in May and have a curriculum ready to go for short-term, non-credit training receiving an industry certification at the end.

Scheduled to meet with L3/Harris in early August to identify their training needs and the college will work to put together a program that will train high school students with the skills that they need to be employed by L3/Harris after high school graduation.

Truck Driving – A local company has asked the college to train 50 truck drivers by October. The company is willing to pay the tuition, pay the student an hourly rate while being trained with an agreement that they will work for the company for a specified amount of time after receiving the CDL. Pay will be approximately \$80K per year. This is at the same time schools are having challenges hiring teachers and police departments struggle to hire police.

We host a Job Fair on our campus and invite regional business and industry to attend

Challenges:

Most of the workforce training programs that are in demand by local industry require a large investment in equipment, is expensive to teach and difficult to find a qualified faculty member. Every school district, no matter the size, wants to have these programs on their site. We could save taxpayer dollars when the same investment is being made in multiple locations in close proximity to each other. It would be best to focus on school districts partnering with the community college where high school students come to one central location where they could have access to the best equipment and best instructor instead of having small numbers of students at several locations. This could save tax dollars.

I've been in the community college for a long time and I started on the workforce side many years ago. I see more opportunities in the workforce area than ever

before. The challenge is meeting these needs quickly. I view it as a window of opportunity and that it is up to us to seize this moment and find a way to get people trained to meet the demand. The State's economic future depends largely on having a trained workforce. Community colleges are the State's work horses and are ready to work with service area school districts to meet the workforce needs.