

May 24, 2001

01-088

WAIVER FROM A FORMAL COMPETITIVE PROCESS  
TO CONTINUE TO CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES FOR THE PCC/GEAR UP PROJECT

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FINANCIAL  
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REPORT: The College Program for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (Gear Up) is required to contract for ongoing program evaluation services from a quality service provider from program start-up through September 15, 2005. Time was a major factor as the Gear Up Director started work on January 15, 2001, and required program evaluation service reports were due no later than the end of March 2001. The service provider desired by Gear Up staff to do this work was M&M Evaluations of Stillwater, Oklahoma. Although other firms and agencies can provide somewhat similar evaluation services, Gear Up staff feel that this firm was preferred because:

- M&M Evaluations has considerable experience with other Gear Up funded projects, and in evaluating other federally funded projects involving K-12 initiatives.
- They had the ability to expeditiously and professionally address the project's evaluation requirements in the extremely short time frame needed to meet the federal reporting guidelines.
- They generally had the unique capacity to address the program criteria better, and subsequently meet the project's specific needs better as well.

The annual costs for this contract will be \$20,000 plus travel expenses, for a total cost over the full term of the contract of approximately \$100,000.

The College's Procurement Rules require a formal competitive process, specifically a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, for the acquisition of professional services that exceed \$50,000 total. However, professional service agreements are not considered public contracts by ORS 279.011(6), and each Local Contract Review Board has the authority to establish their own rules regarding the acquisition of professional services. As such, the Board is only required to grant a waiver for the College to enter into this agreement.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Directors grant a waiver from a formal competitive RFP process for the Gear Up Program to continue to contract with M&M Evaluations to provide ongoing program evaluation services through September 15, 2005, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$100,000. All expenditures will be made from grant funds.

Director Anderson moved to approve Resolution 01-088 and it passed unanimously.