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06-015

APPROVE THE COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF AN
ADDITIONAL FOUR COLLEGES FOR RECEIPT OF
FUNDS FROM THE GATES GRANT TO REPLICATE
THE PCC GATEWAY TO COLLEGE PROGRAM

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REPORT: In March of 2003, the College received a \$4.8 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to enhance and replicate its Gateway to College program. In November of 2004, the College received an additional \$5.4 million to expand the number of replication sites from 8 to 17. Gateway to College, a program of PCC Prep Alternative Programs, serves high school dropouts aged 16 to 20. Students earn high school credit to complete their high school diploma while pursuing an AA degree at PCC.

Five (5) colleges have been funded in the replication project so far; two (2) are starting their second year with students and three (3) opened their doors to students this month. The four (4) sites selected this year will open to students in the fall of 2006. This brings the total number of sites to nine (9)—or the halfway point in the current replication project.

Throughout the replication, sites have been selected through a competitive process dictated by the grant: a rigorous process of discovery, formal letters of interest that are rated by a diverse review team of PCC staff and outside experts, site visits to top-rated colleges, applications for planning funds including a proposed scope of work, and a competitive review of final

proposals. The Gates Foundation has also reviewed the selection of sites.

Four colleges have been selected for this third round:

The Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA: to receive a grant of \$350,000 over three (3) years.

The College of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City, NC: to receive a grant of \$300,000 over three (3) years.

Mt. Wachusett Community College, Gardner, MA: to receive a grant of \$300,000 over three (3) years.

Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton, SC: to receive a grant of \$300,000 over three (3) years.

The discovery phase of the fourth round of site selection has just begun, with four (4) additional colleges to be selected in the fall of 2006.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors approve the competitive selection of the third round site selection of colleges based on the Gates Grant: the Community College of Philadelphia (\$350,000), the College of the Albemarle (\$300,000), Mt. Wachusett Community College (\$300,000), and Tri-County Technical College (\$300,000). Contracts will be negotiated and executed for these projects upon Board approval.