

HOWARD



COLLEGE

QUICK

FACTS

LOCAL

LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITIES

Howard County Junior College District (HCJCD)

SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf

HCJCD has administrative responsibility for the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID). Established by the Legislature in 1981 (*Chapter 131, V.T.C.A., Education Code*), SWCID is a post-secondary, self-contained institution with mainstreaming opportunities that provides educational and career training for the deaf and hard of hearing. It is the third self-contained post-secondary institution in the United States and the only community college for the deaf in the world. SWCID is one of the special items supported by TACC. SWCID has received state appropriations for operation based on its unique mission. In recent sessions the Legislature has appropriated funds for physical plant upgrades, renovation and new construction based on exceptional item requests submitted.

Exceptional Items Statement

Howard College endorses the exceptional item requests submitted by TACC. As one of the small, rural community colleges, we are hard pressed to compete with institutions in larger urban markets in the provision of ever-changing technology, building construction and maintenance, and employee compensation and benefits. However, we provide our students with a quality learning experience and our dramatic enrollment increases reflect that achievement. In recent years we have funded lost state revenue through the increase of local taxes, increases in student tuition and fees, and private grants and contracts. Without adequate funding, community colleges face providing reduced services for rural areas, continued increases in tuition and fee burdens on students, and/or continued increases in the tax burdens on the few communities that support our community colleges. Although the tax base has improved in our area, the human and business migration to the urban areas continues to erode rural communities. Rural residents and businesses struggle to maintain their communities, much less advance them. **Due to the fact that SWCID does not receive local taxes and in-state students have tuition waivers, the state appropriation is critical to the existence of SWCID.**

SWCID Historical Appropriation Review Excluding Exceptional Item Requests

Year	Appropriation
2002-2003	2,253,607
2003-2004	2,589,390
2004-2005	2,589,344
2005-2006	2,734,649
2006-2007	2,734,649
2007-2008	2,734,649
2008-2009	2,734,649
2009-2010	2,905,501
2010-2011	2,908,731
2011-2012	2,651,290*

*Projected with reductions

The 2011 request contains operating funds for SWCID as a special item with no exceptional items included to meet physical plant needs above the base funding request. However, exceptional item requests are included to restore the 5% budget reduction and for exclusion from further reductions if considered.

Community College : State Asset

Community college instructional delivery serves both the individual and the business enterprise, making it a state asset. The sustenance, maintenance, and planned growth of an asset are sound business practices. The local area benefits from the mission of the community college as does the individual student but the state will benefit ultimately as all areas of the state progress together. Preparation of the local institutional budget certainly fosters an appreciation for the tremendous task of state budgeting. Howard College pledges to do its part to be fiscally responsible and conservative while forwarding the interests of the state, region, and individual student through its designated role in the business of this state.

