



Westchester Community College

State University of New York

40993

June 24, 2014

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: John F. M. Flynn
Interim President

Re: Resolution to exempt from the operation of the Westchester County Procurement Policy an Agreement with the Center for Community College Student Engagement, pursuant to Section 3(a)xxi of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures

Authority is requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy a membership agreement (the "Agreement") with the Center for Community College Student Engagement ("CCCSE"). Pursuant to the Agreement, the County of Westchester, acting by and through Westchester Community College (the "College"), will become a member of CCCSE and also participate in two (2) surveys, one administered in the fall of 2014 and the other in the spring of 2015. CCCSE is the pre-eminent organization for survey research, focus group work, and related services for community and technical colleges interested in improving educational quality through strengthened student engagement and student success and assists institutions and policymakers in using information to promote improvements in student learning, persistence, and attainment. Membership provides access to important information about effective educational practices in community colleges.

The Survey of Entering Student Engagement ("SENSE"), administered in the fall of 2014, helps community and technical colleges focus on the "front door" of the college experience. Grounded in research about what works in retaining and supporting entering students, SENSE collects and analyzes data about institutional practices and student behaviors in the earliest weeks of college. This data can help colleges understand students' critical early experiences and improve institutional practices that affect student success in the first college year.

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement ("CCSSE"), which will be administered in the spring of 2015, provides information on student engagement, a key indicator of learning and, therefore, of the quality of community colleges. The survey,

administered to community college students, asks questions that assess institutional practices and student behaviors that are correlated highly with student learning and student retention. The CCSSE survey is a versatile, research-based tool appropriate for multiple uses. The benchmarks are established national norms on educational practice and performance of community colleges. The survey is also a diagnostic tool that identifies areas in which a college can enhance the educational experience of students.

The Agreement will commence upon execution and have a term of one (1) year. The College will pay CCCSE \$15,600.

Entering into the Agreement will allow the College to benchmark its results with peer institutions. Both surveys are research-based, national benchmarks of effective educational practices for community colleges. CCCSE provides access to an award-winning website that provides publicly reported results and interactive data search/ benchmarking capabilities as well as access to resources to help strengthen our understanding and use of data for institutional improvement, reaffirmation of accreditation and accountability.

Pursuant to Section 3(a) xxi, the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures are not applicable to any procurement for which this Honorable Board determines, by resolution passed prior to commencing such procurement, that compliance with the policy would not be in the best interests of the County. Based on the information provided above, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of this agreement from the County Procurement Policy. Accordingly, a resolution is hereby submitted for your consideration.

JFMF:me
Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Interim President, Westchester Community College, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3(a)xxi of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting proposals, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly, not in the best interests of the County in connection with the procurement of a membership agreement between the County of Westchester, acting by and through Westchester Community College, and the Center for Community College Student Engagement.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 07/11/2014 JIMMY VIEIRA SECRETARY