



DISTRICT PRESIDENT

January 22, 2008

Dr. Willis N. Holcombe
Chancellor
Division of Community Colleges
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street
1314 Turlington Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Chancellor Holcombe:

Edison College has worked with the Hendry County School Board since 2002 to develop "off-site campus" educational programs at the LaBelle High School. These counties make up 35% of the District and have the highest poverty levels of the area. To continue fulfilling the county and student needs of Hendry and Glades, the College requests the designation of a Special Purpose Center at LaBelle. The site designation change will provide Edison with opportunities to meet the future needs of this area by providing services to an underserved community.

Enclosed are two (2) copies of the Hendry/Glades Special Purpose Center site designation request for your review. This request was approved by the Edison College Board of Trustees at the January 22, 2008 meeting. Please include this request on the agenda for the next meeting of the State Board of Education. The proposal has been prepared according to the provisions of Section 1001.02(4)(e), Florida Statutes, and State Board of Education Rule 6A-14.0061 FAC.

Sincerely,

Noeen Thomas for Kenneth Walker

Kenneth P. Walker

cc: Ron Fahs, Director of Facilities Planning and Budgeting

Enc.

**REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF
THE HENDRY / GLADES
SPECIAL PURPOSE CENTER
AT
LABELLE HIGH SCHOOL**

*Proposal to the State Board of Education
Submitted to: Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor
Division of Community Colleges*

Edison College
Facilities Planning
8099 College Pkwy.
Fort Myers, Florida 33919
January 22, 2008

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	ii
Requirement #1: The proposed Special Purpose Center is a part of and consistent with the long-range master plan of the College	1
Requirement #2: The new instructional and support services are necessary to adequately serve the community college district	1
Requirement #3: Projected enrollments at the Special Purpose Center justify the need for this additional site.....	2
Requirement #4: Facilities at existing campuses are substantially complete and utilized.....	3
Requirement #5: The proposed expansion is in conjunction with the other educational agencies within the community college district and adjacent to the district.....	3
Requirement #6: Alternatives to the proposed expansion.....	3
Appendices.....	4
Appendix A: Edison College Strategic Plan.....	5
Appendix B: Board of Trustees Approval	11
Appendix C: Letters of Support.....	12
Appendix D: Articulation Agreement (Edison College and Hendry Co. School Board)	14
Appendix E: Edison College Site Locations Map	37

Executive Summary

Purpose: Edison College plans to develop the existing Hendry / Glades instructional site located at the LaBelle High School, 4050 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida. The development of the site into a Special Purpose Center will provide Edison with opportunities to meet the future needs of the students, community, and articulation agreement terms between Edison College and the Hendry County School Board.

Need: The College's mission is to provide opportunities for post secondary education, personal growth, and prepare students for the workforce. The current LaBelle site is centrally located and provides limited post secondary education for Hendry and Glades. These counties encompass 2176 square miles, make up 35% of the District and have the highest District poverty level. Also the full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment has increased 32% since its inception in 2002. These factors show, the community would benefit from Edison's continued growth of the existing programs at LaBelle.

Objective: Edison College was established in 1962. Since its beginnings in a Lee County School Board facility, the College has expanded into 3 full-service campuses which serve Lee, Collier, and Charlotte counties. Edison has succeeded in serving its communities in response to their greatest needs. Edison is ready to develop the current instructional site and has listed this goal in the strategic plan, "Decade of Promise: 2010." This will provide higher education opportunities to an underserved population by decreasing student barriers such as: travel distance, program limitations, and limited instructional space.

Implementation: Edison College has recently partnered with the School Board of Hendry County in a leasing agreement in order to provide additional instructional space for college programs as well as a variety of acceleration mechanisms that will make the following forms available for secondary and post secondary students:

- Dual enrollment
- Early Admission (college)
- Advance Placement Program (AP)
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
- Tech Prep Career Pathways

**Criteria Specified in Rule 6A-14.0061, F.A.C.
Special Purpose Center Designation
Hendry / Glades Special Purpose Center
At LaBelle High School**

Requirement #1: The proposed Special Purpose Center is a part of and consistent with the long-range master plan of the College

Edison College opened an instructional site at the LaBelle High School in 2002 to provide for community needs. In four years, student enrollment has grown fifty five percent showing that the community believes in the site's purpose. This proposal of a Special Purpose Center in the Hendry / Glade county area is a part of and consistent with Edison College's strategic plan, "Decade of Promise: 2010" (Appendix A). The long-range master plan reflects the college's commitment to serving the students and communities of its district through educational campuses, off-site facilities, and on-line and specialized programs.

Edison seeks to establish a special purpose center at LaBelle High School, 4050 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida. By changing the site designation, Edison will have increased opportunities to develop programs and facilities to meet these needs and prepare for a future LaBelle Center.

Requirement #2: The new instructional and support services are necessary to adequately serve the community college district

To adequately serve the community Edison College has developed into a multi-campus baccalaureate-degree granting public institution dedicated to educational excellence. Edison's programs are responsive to its many communities and accessible through a variety of delivery methods. Within a supportive learning environment, faculty and staff are committed to preparing students to be productive citizens by helping them develop academic and professional proficiencies; to think logically, critically, and analytically; to communicate effectively; to seek and evaluate information; and to act with sound judgment in the interest of our global community.

In support of this mission, Edison College is committed to fostering a climate of continuous improvement and institutional effectiveness as it provides:

- Liberal arts and pre-professional education through the Associate in Arts degree
- Professional and technical education through the Associate in Science degree and college certificates
- Baccalaureate degrees in selected majors as authorized by the State Board of Education
- Access to additional baccalaureate degrees through upper division transfer, articulation, and the Edison University Center
- Qualified faculty and staff committed to the educational goals of the learner
- Services and opportunities promoting academic, personal, and social growth among students
- Accessibility to programs through learning assistance, academic advising, flexible scheduling and distance education

- Educational partnerships with business, industry, government, and other institutions
- Cultural resources, events and facilities for the community

To provide these opportunities Edison is addressing poverty levels, geographic area, and limited access to educational facilities. The counties of Hendry and Glades currently have the highest poverty rates within the district at 18% and 13.1% (Floyd, Irwin & Wilson, 2007, p. 134). Studies have shown that these individuals will remain at the same economic status without the necessary education to elevate them (Office of Educational Services and Research, Division of Community Colleges, 2001). Next, these counties encompass 2176 square miles and make up 35% of the District (Floyd, Irwin & Wilson, 2007, p. 316-317). This large geographic area requires students to travel over 40 miles to access programs only available at the Lee County Campus (Appendix E). Finally, the full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment has increased over 32% since the instructional sites inception in 2002 (*EC Office of Institutional Effectiveness, 2007*). These factors show, the community would benefit from Edison’s continued growth of the existing programs at LaBelle.

To meet these students’ needs, the Edison College Board of Trustees has approved the establishment of the Hendry / Glades Special Purpose Center located on the LaBelle High School site (Appendix B).

Requirement #3: Projected enrollments at the Special Purpose Center justify the need for this additional site

The population centered in and around the new site and the distance from the Lee, Collier and Charlotte County Campuses indicates that projected enrollments will be adequate to justify the new Hendry / Glades Special Purpose Center. Letters of support are included to show communities’ support (Appendix C).

Calculated and projected enrollments for the Hendry / Glades Special Purpose Center are listed below:

Calculated FTE:

2004-05	172
2005-06	207
2006-07	254

Projected FTE:

2007-08	333
2008-09	353
2009-10	374
2010-11	397
2011-12	421
2012-13	442

Calculated and Projected FTE Source: *EC Office of Institutional Effectiveness, 2007*

Requirement #4: Facilities at existing campuses are substantially complete and utilized

The Lee County Campus (main campus) is complete. The campus was completed in 2003 and provides services to the Lee County community.

Completed in 1993, the Collier County Campus provides full services to the residents of Collier County.

The Charlotte County Campus, constructed in 1997, is the newest completed facility and serves the community of Charlotte County.

Requirement #5: The proposed expansion is in conjunction with the other educational agencies within the community college district and adjacent to the district

Edison College has recently partnered with the School Board of Hendry County in an articulation agreement to provide a variety of acceleration mechanisms that will make the following forms available for secondary and post secondary students:

- Vocational Dual enrollment
- Early Admission (college)
- Advance Placement Program (AP)
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- International Baccalaureate Program (IB)
- Tech Prep Career Pathways

The articulation agreement between the School Board of Hendry County and Edison College has been made for 2007-08 (Appendix D).

The LaBelle site was established to meet the needs of the surrounding community. The site's location does not infringe on adjacent districts (Appendix E).

Requirement #6: Alternatives to the proposed expansion

The Hendry County School Board has provided instructional space for Edison College since 2004. This temporary arrangement has suited the needs of the college until now. An increase in student enrollment since the 2002-03 academic year confirms the need for additional space to sustain the current growth and provide for future students. Edison College has provided for its communities, and in return, the communities have favorably responded.

In conclusion, the Hendry / Glades Special Purpose Center will provide Edison College with opportunities to develop existing facilities and programs. Finally, this growth will decrease student barriers by providing better access to post secondary education for the counties of Hendry and Glades.

References:

Floyd, S., Irwin, E., & Wilson, P. (Eds.). (2007). *Florida Statistical Abstract 2006* (40th ed.). Gainesville, FL: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

Floyd, S., Irwin, E., & Wilson, P. (Eds.). (2007). *Florida County Rankings 2006* (13th ed.). Gainesville, FL: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

Office of Educational Services and Research, Division of Community Colleges. (2001). *Family Income and Educational Attainment (FAST FACTS No. FF53)* [Electronic version]. Retrieved January 15, 2008, from <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/osas/fastfacts/ff53.pdf>

APPENDICES

Appendix A Edison College Strategic Plan

Appendix B Board of Trustees Approval

Appendix C Letters of Support

Appendix D Articulation Agreement (Edison College and Hendry Co. School Board)

Appendix E Edison College Site Locations Map

Meeting of the
EDISON COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 22, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 2

Approval of Special Purpose Center at LaBelle High School

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Edison College District Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Hendry/Glades Special Purpose Center at LaBelle High School.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

To qualify for additional state funding, and to accommodate a sustained enrollment growth of 14% over the last three years, the College is seeking the approval of the Florida Division of Community Colleges and the State Board of Education to designate the Hendry/Glades site located at LaBelle High School as a Special Purpose Center. The request reflects the College's commitment to providing access to higher education to the residents of Glades and Hendry counties.

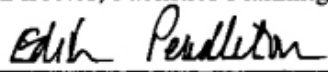
Attachment

REQUESTED BY:



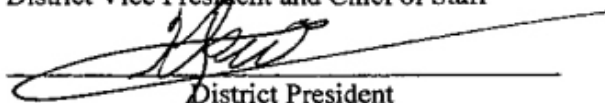
District Director, Facilities Planning and Management

RECOMMENDED BY:



District Vice President and Chief of Staff

APPROVED FOR AGENDA BY:



District President