TAB E

DISCUSSION

Subject	Date
Internet Connectivity Upgrade	May 19, 2020

BACKGROUND

The college continues to prioritize stable and reliable internet access as a key component to support student success. Efforts have included: website, Wi-Fi, server, network and phone availability, reliability and coverage. With the ever-increasing use of video, adequate internet bandwidth is a key element.

The "Complete online campus experience" strategic priority further illuminates the need to ensure WCC's internet bandwidth is adequate. As servers and services, like online learning and virtual classrooms are moved to the cloud increased bandwidth is necessary.

To accommodate current and anticipated future needs an upgrade to the College's internet bandwidth to 1000Mbps (1Gbps) is a necessity. In addition, Distributed Denial of service (DDOS) protection is also essential. DDOS prevents the network from being flooded with traffic, which shuts down internal authentication on the website and every server. All internet traffic going in and out of the WCC network would stop without this protection.

Currently the network bandwidth is 500Mbps at a cost of $26,340 a year with no DDOS. The cost of a 3-year commitment is $25,404 a year with a onetime cost of $250. In addition to the cost savings, the 3 – year commitment would increase the College's bandwidth from 500Mbps to 1Gbps and add DDOS protection. This upgrade has been budgeted for in fiscal year 21.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees approve a 3-year contract for internet connectivity with DDOS protection from Merit for an amount not to exceed $78,000.

IF MOVED TO ACTION, A ROLL CALL VOTE WILL BE TAKEN

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Rose B. Bellanca, President