

**Memorandum of Understanding
for
Weslaco Early College High School,
Weslaco East Early College High School and
Weslaco 21st Century Career and Technical Education Early College High School
between South Texas College
and the Weslaco Independent School District**

This Memorandum of Understanding is hereby entered into by and between South Texas College, a political subdivision, (hereinafter called the "College"), acting by and through its President; the **Weslaco Independent School District**, a Texas political subdivision, (hereinafter referred to as "School District" or "Weslaco ISD"), and acting by and through its Superintendent.

I. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding desire to establish Weslaco Early College High School (WECHS), Weslaco East Early College High School (WEECHS) and Weslaco 21st Century Career and Technical Education Early College High School (CTE ECHS), for the 2017-2018 academic school year, serving grades 9-12, and provide dual enrollment for academic dual credit college courses for high school students free of charge. The student population of the **WECHS, WEECHS, and CTEECHS** will be primarily composed of underserved and underrepresented high school students (grades 9-12); primarily consisting of students who are at-risk, economically disadvantaged, first generation college goers, and who have not received the academic preparation necessary to meet credit college entrance standards. Potential students for the **WECHS, WEECHS, and CTEECHS** will be screened and selected through the use of a lottery system that encourages and considers applications from all students. All students will have an equal opportunity for acceptance, regardless of background or academic performance.

WHEREAS Early College High Schools are small schools with enrollments between 400-500 or fewer students (100-125 students per grade cohort) which provide students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of transferable college credits (60) and/or and an associate's degree, and

WHEREAS Early College High Schools prepare this population of high school students for successful career and educational futures through a full integration of high school, college, high demand/high skill career preparation, improved academic performance, and increase high school and college/university completion rates;

WHEREAS both Weslaco ISD and South Texas College are willing and able to participate in the facilitation of this program to benefit the students they both seek to assist.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, and conditions and provisions set forth herein, the parties hereto agree as follows: