

**DATE:** January 28, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Southwest Tennessee Community College Master Plan Update

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Campus master plans are an essential element of higher education public policy. Master plans provide an opportunity for long range planning that incorporates the institution’s needs and ambitions, while also providing the public and state government a sense for how the institution might evolve over time. Whether the acquisition of strategic property, the need for additional or more efficient use of facilities, or analysis of how the campus footprint meshes with the surrounding community, master plans provide a method of anticipating and preparing for the future needs of the campus and the students it serves. THEC encourages institutions to produce a master plan every five years that addresses near, mid and long-term needs of the campus with respect to building and land use, open space, vehicular circulation and parking, and land acquisition opportunities.

**MASTER PLAN SUMMARY**

With a service area that encompasses the Memphis metro region, Southwest Tennessee Community College (STCC) hired SmithGroupJJR, an architecture and planning firm, to develop a districtwide master plan — one that provides space-needs analyses and framework plans for each of STCC’s two campuses (Union Avenue and Macon Cove) and three centers (Whitehaven, Maxine A. Smith, and Gill). Overall, the master plan recommends greater utilization and repurposing of current space to meet a ten-year projected growth in full-time enrollment of 30 percent (6,800 in 2013-14 to 8,800 in 2023-24).

Most of the prescriptive plans for the campuses aim at improving student success and improving institutional images to better attract and retain students. Over a six-phase framework for the Union Avenue campus, the master plan advises acquiring adjacent land in order to allow for a more pedestrian friendly campus and constructing a new academic facility in part to provide additional student support services.

For the Macon Cove campus the master plan calls for development that will both connect students with the workforce and allow students to more fully participate in student activities. The proposed Industrial Readiness Training facility will expose students to skills necessary for successful careers while the construction of new

athletic fields will meet the needs of current (baseball and softball) and future (soccer) athletic endeavors. The campus' four-phased framework also calls for the renovation of Farris Building in order to provide more student-focused resources and services at the center of campus.

Space needs and framework plans for the three centers are minimal since current facilities were generally found to meet projected enrollment growths. The plan does, however, suggest that STCC merge Gill Center's activities with another STCC campus due to the center's low enrollment (projected 280 FTE in 2023-24).

Finally, the plan encourages the University of Memphis to establish a full-time presence at both the Union Avenue and Macon Cove campuses in order to better assist students who are interested in transferring.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In preparing for a ten-year projected growth, the STCC Campus Master Plan Update helps the institution prioritize student access and success measures. The master plan has been thoroughly reviewed and THEC staff recommends it for approval.