

Board of Directors Meeting

December 8, 2022

Approve St. Petersburg College Early Childhood Education Support Program

Item III.D.

Recommended Action: Approve Sole Source and \$75,233 to St. Petersburg College for the Early Childhood Education Support Program. Budget amendment from Future Programming to St. Petersburg College Early Childhood Education Support Program.

Strategic Plan Alignment: Early Childhood Development
School Readiness

Background: JWB's Strategic Plan Strategy 1.2 of the Early Childhood Development Results Area is to help stabilize workforce needs. The JWB Board awarded workforce stabilization grants in April 2022 to JWB funded early learning centers. In addition, JWB supports St. Petersburg College (SPC) with scholarship money for students to obtain their Associates and/or Bachelor Degrees in early childhood educational studies. The goal of the scholarship is to increase a qualified workforce and attract staff already working in early learning programs to increase their education, which in turn increases their earning potential in the field. The scholarship has successfully supported students since 2016.

In order to maximize support of the community in Early Childhood Education and invest in qualified and skilled staff for children, JWB staff recommends funding SPC in providing the Early Childhood Education Support Program. This new program includes a position that will support local adult students attending St. Petersburg College Early Childhood Education degree programs. These students have varying abilities, are from diverse educational, cultural, and social backgrounds, and will foster an environment of student success. The program intends to support student learning and educational goals by layering the JWB Scholarship with academic support including individual, group, and online tutoring. The program will also conduct outreach events to recruit new students, track progress towards graduation, and track students' ability to stay in the early childhood education field. By offering scholarships and assistance for completion of school, JWB will be supporting a more qualified and prepared staff for its youngest learners.

Budget Impact: JWB Staff are requesting the Board approve a sole source award to SPC for the Early Childhood Education Support Program in the amount of \$75,233 for FY23 and an annualized amount of \$82,513 for FY24. Accordingly, staff are requesting the Board approve a budget amendment reducing the allocation for Future Programming from \$2,948,625 to \$2,873,392.

Staff Resources: Karen Boggess
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