

Board of Trustees

Washtenaw Community College

4800 E. Huron River Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-4800

DISCUSSION

Subject
Single Mode Fiber Installation Contract

Date
February 23, 2021

BACKGROUND

The rapidly evolving Higher Ed Landscape requires a network infrastructure that is stable, robust, and nimble. As the backbone of our communications platform, the network infrastructure enables phone, E-mail, and web communications which are interwoven into all aspects of WCC operations. As a result of the pandemic and the increased use of virtual classrooms and remote/virtual campus operations, a reliable network with higher bandwidth is critical.

As referenced in the Network Infrastructure Upgrade Board materials from November 2020, the Fiber Optic Cable Plant has not been updated and needs to be. In order to work with new hardware and also to prevent Network failures, latency, and a sluggish network experience, this is a particular priority. Due to the growing amounts of data and with the additional use of video for on campus and remote operations, it is all the more important. The major goals of this project include the following:

- Increase the reliability of the network and decrease the possibility of failures and interruption to campus operations.
- Provide the infrastructure on which to build and enhance our online offerings, including teaching/learning and other remote/virtual services.

After review of the bids, Challenger Technologies was selected as the best qualified vendor for these reasons:

- We have used them before and they do excellent work.
- They were the only vendor of the 3 vendors invited who submitted a bid.

The college recommends that the Single Mode Fiber Installation contract be awarded to Challenger Technologies for an amount not to exceed \$220,000. This contract will be covered by ITS budgeted resources.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees approve a contract for Single Mode Fiber Installation from Challenger Technologies for an amount not to exceed \$220,000.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WILL BE TAKEN

Prepared by: Todd Kreuger
Title: CIO

Recommended by: Rose B. Bellanca, Ed.D.
Rose B. Bellanca, President