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**ADOPTED – BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
APRIL 15, 2010**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
County of Cook and State of Illinois**

**Consultant Professional Services Agreements
Steven Aragon, Ph.D. and Chad Rose
Strengthening Students' Academic Skills & Outcomes Project
(Amend Board Report #29891 dated December 3, 2009)**

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS

that the Board of Trustees authorized the Chairman to enter into professional services agreements with Dr. Steven Aragon and Mr. Chad Rose to provide consultant services for the project entitled, "Strengthening Students' Academic Skills & Outcomes Project" at Truman College beginning December 7, 2009 – February 23, 2010 at a total not to exceed the amount for both of \$22,000; and

that there is a need to amend Board Report #29891 dated December 3, 2009 because the project could not begin as originally authorized; and

that Truman College doubled the enrollment in its nursing program to respond to the critical shortage of skilled nurses in Chicago and Illinois. To maintain program quality and strong outcomes, Truman College requires consultant services to address student performance issues on the HESI exam. Students must pass the HESI exam to qualify for graduation from the nursing program and to qualify to sit for the national nursing licensure examination (NCLEX). With the expansion of the nursing program, a number of students failed to pass the HESI; and

that Truman College has developed a plan to address learning concerns. The college requires the services of two consultants to execute the plan, Dr. Steven Aragon and Chad Rose from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign; and

that the consultants will utilize existing data results to enhance curriculum and create motivational and test-taking strategies. They will assist Truman College, district faculty leaders, faculty across the district and Instructional administration to enhance the curriculum with a focus on improving critical thinking and higher level intellectual skills; and

that the consultants will provide the following services in curriculum design and instruction:

- collect data from May 2009 CCC graduates that were unsuccessful in comprehensive exam; and
- utilize data to determine student learning strategies and to design specific learning strategies for auditing nursing students; and

- work with nursing students to develop study skills and test taking strategies; and
- implement motivational learning strategies to increase students' learning gains and provide the students' with the emotional energy necessary to meet learning challenges; and
- work with faculty to develop teaching methods that strengthen students' critical thinking and higher order thinking skills; and
- work to define where critical thinking gaps are across the college curriculum; and
- work with faculty leadership to develop strategies to improve and enhance pedagogy such as critical thinking and analytical skills across disciplines and curricula; and
- conduct meetings with faculty to improve teaching and learning across disciplines and curricula by applying knowledge derived from the existing data; and
- that this pilot data will be shared across the District and used for accreditation and

that the work will be completed between April 15, 2010 and June 15, 2010 and will be calculated at a rate of \$125 per hour and will not exceed 176 hours. The total amount of work will not exceed \$22,000 (\$11,000 for Dr. Aragon and \$11,000 for Mr. Rose); and

that this request for a high degree of professional skill is exempt from District competitive bidding requirements; and

that the Office of M/WBE Contract Compliance has reviewed the above agreements and, the scope of services does not allow for subcontracting to certified firms for direct participation, is recommending a waiver of compliance with the Board approved Participation plan.

THE CHANCELLOR

RECOMMENDS that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chairman to enter into professional services agreements with Dr. Steven Aragon and Mr. Chad Rose to provide consultant services for the project entitled, "Strengthening Students' Academic Skills & Outcomes Project" at Truman College beginning April 15, 2010 and June 15, 2010 at a total not to exceed amount for both of \$22,000.

FINANCIAL Not to exceed \$22,000
Education Fund – 0003-40211500-1001-00000-532100

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl L. Hyman
Chancellor

April 15, 2010 – Truman College-Nursing Department