HENRY FORD COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BOARD REPORT

SUBJECT: Technology Investment Fund (TIF) Winter 2020 Proposed Project

Listed below is a summary for a project recommended for funding by the Technology Investment Committee (TIC).

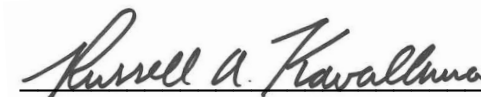| Project Director Division/Department	Nature of Request	Approved Funding
Steven Glazer, Fine Arts School of Liberal Arts	Sisson Gallery Technology and Lighting Upgrade, including equipment and installation for a state-of-the-art exhibition space	$200,000
	Total Funds	**$200,000**

The Technology Investment Committee held an open meeting on April 3, 2020, to hear presentations from schools/departments requesting funds. The committee recommends this proposal for funding. This project has been reviewed by the College administration which offers its support. The total value of this TIF project which the committee is recommending is $200,000. Submission of this project for approval by the Board was on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION:

The College administration concurs with the Technology Investment Committee and recommends this project be approved for funding by the HFC Board of Trustees.

John S. Satkowski, JD
Vice President of Financial Services

Russell A. Kavalhuna, JD
President

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CONTRACT AWARD

SUBJECT: Blackboard Ally Software

The Director of Academic Services requests a contract for the purchase of Blackboard Ally Software, including associated consulting and implementation services. Blackboard Ally integrates with the College's online Learning Management System, known as Moodle, to improve accessibility for users. Students enrolled in online programs expect a holistic learning experience that is focused on their success. Some online programs, however, can present barriers to students who have visual, auditory, cognitive, and/or physical disabilities that prevent them from fully engaging in the learning materials. In addition, the College must meet the expectations established in accessibility laws and rulings issued by the Department of Justice and Office of Civil Rights. The Blackboard Ally product makes digital course content more accessible for users. The Blackboard Ally software provides students and the College benefits such as:

- Increasing awareness and visibility of accessibility issues by integrating directly into the Learning Management system and existing workflows.
- Automatic checking of course materials for common accessibility issues and standards, including WCAG 2.1 AA rules.
- Providing students the choice to download course materials in alternative formats such as PowerPoint slides as audio files, tagged PDF, or as electronic Braille. Ally can also machine translate course content to several languages including Arabic and Spanish.
- Delivering in-context feedback and guidance to help instructors improve the accessibility of their content.
- Providing an inclusive approach to accessibility that focuses on improving the quality and usability of course materials for all students.

The Cabinet, Information Technology Oversite Team, and Legal Services reviewed and approved this software purchase. The initial contract term covers software licenses for 15,000 FTE for five (5) years and initial services. Annual costs appear below:

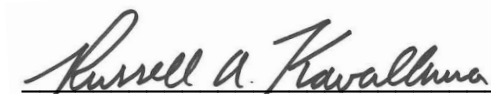| Product or Service	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Blackboard Ally	$42,525.00	$43,800.75	$45,114.77	$46,468.22	$47,862.26
E-Learning Services	$18,000.00	--	--	--	--
Remote Training	$2,000.00	--	--	--	--
	$62,525.00	$43,800.75	$45,114.77	$46,468.22	$47,862.26

The five-year agreement totals $245,771.00. Federal grant dollars through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provide 100% of the funds for the first two years of the contract ($106,325.75).

RECOMMENDATION:

The College administration recommends a contract award to Blackboard Inc. for $245,771.00 for a 5-year subscription to Blackboard Ally Accessibility Software as requested by the Office of Academic Services, in accordance with Proposal #N2019-181426-01 dated August 19, 2021.

John S. Satkowski, JD
Vice President of Financial Services

Russell A. Kavalhuna, JD
President

**HENRY FORD COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

CONTRACT AWARD

SUBJECT: Nimble Storage Adaptive Hybrid Array

The Director of Network and IT Infrastructure requests a contract for the equipment, supplies and services necessary for the installation and support of two (2) HPE Nimble HF40 Adaptive Hybrid Storage Arrays and four (4) Cisco MDS 9148T Fiber Channel Switches. A hybrid storage array is a system for data storage that contains a mix of solid-state flash memory drives and traditional hard disk drives. Flash drives transfer data much faster that hard disk drives. Adding a small number of flash drives to a traditional array improves its overall performance immensely and costs much less that an all-flash array. The storage arrays and fiber channel switches will be split and installed in two separate locations – the College's production environment and its off-site disaster recovery (system backup) location.

Sentinel Technologies, Inc. submitted a proposal for all necessary hardware, software, and professional services needed to furnish, install, support, and integrate this equipment in the College's network, including hosting services for the backup storage array at an off-site secured data center. Sentinel based its hardware and software pricing on the best available group purchasing contracts awarded by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO), and the State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program (MiDEAL). The proposal totals $249,638.00.

Federal grant dollars through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provide 100% of the funds for this purchase.
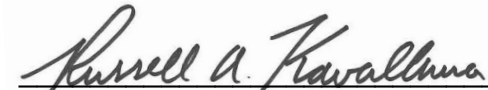
Sentinel Technologies offers a proprietary and customized method for enterprises to access robust, scalable, and cost-effective disaster recovery services. Sentinel is a Cisco Master Security partner, as well as a Cisco Star Service Partner. The College has worked with Sentinel since 2009 to build and maintain its IT network infrastructure. Throughout this relationship, Sentinel's technical team has provided exceptional service. Sentinel's in-depth knowledge of the HFC network and the unique security services they offer make this proposal and the ability to perform this service unique amongst IT network and disaster recovery service providers. The College requests a sole source award.

RECOMMENDATION:

The College administration recommends a contract award to Sentinel Technologies, Inc. for $249,638.00 for the purchase and installation of two (2) HPE Nimble HF40 Adaptive Hybrid Storage Arrays, four (4) Cisco MDS 9148T Fiber Channel Switches, and associated software and services as requested by the Information Technology Services department, in accordance with Proposal #136r1-RS dated September 8, 2021.

John S. Satkowski, JD
Vice President of Financial Services

Russell A. Kavalhuna, JD
President