

## **PIMA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

A Study Session of the Pima County Community College District Governing Board was held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Board Room, C-105, at the District Office, 4905 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85709-1005.

### **Persons in Attendance**

#### **Board Members:**

Mark Hanna, Chair  
Demion Clinco, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Sylvia Lee  
Meredith Hay  
Luis Gonzales

#### **Recording Secretary**

Andrea Gauna

#### **Administration**

Lee Lambert, Chancellor

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mark Hanna called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

Members of Sun Corridor, Inc. (formally known as TREO) in attendance:

Joe Snell, President and CEO, Sun Corridor, Inc.  
Brian Weller representing Caterpillar  
Greg White, Vice President of Finance & CEO, Raytheon Missile

Ian Roark, Vice President of Workforce Development introduced members of Sun Corridor, Inc. and began a discussion on how to position the College to prepare for the emerging technologies and jobs.

The mission of Sun Corridor, Inc. is to serve everything south of Phoenix and through northern Mexico. They are governed by a diverse 72-member board of directors. The board consists of government officials, mayors throughout the region, phoenix-bases executives, and college presidents.

The group is successful in bringing in many companies to set up shop over the last 18 months and they have become more aggressive in their approach. Sun Corridor has gotten a lot of publicity lately as well. Bloomberg reported that Tucson has had the third fastest job growth in the country and this publicity could be very good for the area.

Sun Corridor reported that they are working with many companies that are requiring higher and higher skill sets, which means higher wages. They also noted that there is a shift in the types of industries that are interested in our community, companies from all over the country. Our proximity to Mexico and Long Beach is part of the reason. Long Beach is the nation's busiest port.

The group reported that there is an interest in natural resource industries, such as solar, mining, manufacturing and biosciences in the diagnostics area. The group is confident that we are going to see strong growth in our economy. Noted sales missions have been the contributors to their recent success, as well as not waiting for people to knock on their door.

The group has been selected to host the international conference for sight selectors and shared a video they are using to sell Arizona's best qualities to other cities.

Mr. Snell suggested that the College focus on being driven by the end user (the companies hiring) and encourage the College to create the necessary infrastructure that's needed to compete. PCC also needs to be very flexible and move with the speed of business. Mr. Snell said they are big supporters of the College and they need PCC's help.

Board Chair Hanna asked about what negative things are being said about Arizona. Mr. Snell has heard that Arizona is not big enough and we don't have the critical mass and education. Arizona's air service and direct flights are a big issue. There is also the perception that Arizona's crime rate is high because of its proximity to the border. But Sun Corridor is focusing on the positives.

The Board discussed the types of jobs that Sun Corridor is trying to recruit. Board member Hay asked the group if they felt PCC could produce the type of workers needed for these types of jobs. Mr. Snell noted that every position will have to have some knowledge of computer science and information security. What these companies are looking for are people with a wide enough skill base who have the flexibility and curiosity to be able to take the technology as its changing and adapt to it. He also noted that the vocational education skills, such as welding, are phasing out in the high schools, but these types of skills are still very important to the workforce.

Board member Hay noted that the College needs their support when it comes time to go to the community for bonds to support Pima's master plan. The College will need the support of the industry leaders.

Board member Hanna asked that if we have the infrastructure in place to build a college that will meet their needs, what will the College do about finding instructors. Mr. Snell noted that a lot of the time employees of the firms are able to provide the best adjunct instructors and actual classes can be held at each of the firms.

Mr. Snell suggested developing a program to teach soft skills, such as diversity of thought. These programs are very important. It was added that there are other elements that are critical, such as the student's willingness to get dirty and do it with a degree of ethics.

The group is also working on internships with these companies that will start in high school so the students become very familiar with manufacturing floor. This knowledge helps to make better students.

Board Chair Hanna noted some of the things the College will need from Sun Corridor as we move forward; feedback, internships and financial partnerships.

Board member Clinco asked that the Chancellor report back to the Board in August with a plan to completely revamp how we are addressing our advisory committees and what our plan is to rollout a sort of revamped program to invite these industry partners to sit with our committee members. He also asked the Chancellor to let the Board know if policy changes are necessary for these plans.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Secretary

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Date