

June 4, 2018

Dear Members of the Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation Board,

On behalf of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, I respectfully request a two-year extension of the agreement for Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation funds for the Development of Facilities for the Bachelor of Science in Civil and Industrial Engineering Programs. Per Section 3.e, the Agreement shall automatically terminate if the programs are not funded by TAMU-CC or the Texas Legislature by September 1, 2018. As the programs have not yet been approved, an extension is requested to provide additional time for approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is heavily scrutinizing the addition of any new engineering programs across the state. As a result, TAMU-CC decided to rescind our original submission in 2017 and add increased detail about economic development in the Corpus Christi community and the engineering employment needs in the Coastal Bend region. We had a visit scheduled with THECB Commissioner Raymund Paredes, which unfortunately got suspended until September 2018. Hurricane Harvey, implementation of the State's strategic plan, and new legislative requirements also complicated our initial timeline.

We believe that our updated proposal is strong and will be resubmitting our improved request to THECB this summer; however, we cannot control the timeline for program approval, as the THECB has up to a year to make a decision regarding new degree requests. Because these circumstances have affected all engineering programs in the A&M System, we have been closely coordinating with members of the Texas A&M University System administration, including Dr. James Hallmark, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Kathy Banks, vice chancellor of Engineering.

Thank you for your consideration of this extension request. I truly appreciate your continued support of the Island University.

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Quintanilla