

Board of Trustees

Washtenaw Community College

DISCUSSION

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

Subject
Circle In Contract

Date
June 23, 2020

Background

Washtenaw Community College has experienced increasing numbers of students enrolling in distance learning classes and expect increasing enrollments in the future. Due to COVID-19 the College moved all Winter 2020 and Summer 2020 classes to an on-line format. The on-line only format has restricted students from being able to participate in College-organized and student-organized in-person study groups on campus. Circle In is an app that brings studying into the modern world, helping students be more productive and collaborative and supporting study groups online. The Circle In app allows students to study online together and seek help from classmates and tutors. Colleges and universities that have used the Circle In application have found 66% of students experience an increase in productivity, an 80% increase in academic performance, and 71% of students reporting they recommend Circle In to their classmates.

The College plans to have the Circle In app available for all students to access for their Fall 2020 classes to support student success.

Circle In is a recipient of a National Science Foundation Innovation Grant and has received additional funding through private sources. The app has been used in over 20 states and will be deployed at over 30 colleges and universities this fall.

The College will use institutional CARES grant funding to cover the first year of the Circle In contract.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve a contract with Circle In, Inc. not to exceed \$94,000 in the first year. The contract may be renewed for a second year at a cost of \$104,000 and a third year at a cost of \$119,000. College administration will base contract renewal on student use and evaluation of the Circle In app.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WILL BE TAKEN

Prepared by: Linda Blakey
Title: Executive Vice President
Student and Academic Services

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