STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION
October 9, 2024

TOPIC: Colorado Community College System Information Technology (CCCS-IT) Spending Authority Request for Five Year Renewal of the AdAstra Contract

PRESENTED BY:
Julie Ouska, Vice Chancellor of Information Technology/Chief Information Officer

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:
Implement and scale-up proven student-support mechanisms that partner with students to confront and overcome educational barriers.

Develop capacity in institutional research and data analytics to support a culture of inquiry, evidentiary decision-making, and student success.

EXPLANATION:
Various modules of the course scheduling and course analysis software Ad Astra have been in use for a variety of years by ACC, CCA, CCD, FRCC, PCC, PPSC and RRCC. Some of the modules in use are Astra Scheduling, Essential Scheduling, Student Demand Forecasting, and Align Administrative functions that are covered by these modules include general schedule building, taking into account classroom seating size, layout and classroom technology and evaluating schedule consistency to avoid switching days of the week or times when courses within a program are typically offered on the same days and times.

The software also incorporates data from Ellucian Degree Works to identify student demand for courses based on their degree requirements and also can identify where a course may not be offered frequently enough to allow a student to complete a degree or certificate in a timely manner. Ad Astra integrates fully with Banner so Banner data can inform Ad Astra analytics and updates made in the Ad Astra scheduling module can be sent to Banner to update the schedule of record. A couple of examples of how our colleges use the Ad Astra products include Arapahoe Community College using Ad Astra to refine their schedule and ensure that they are meeting student needs in regard to completing their degree requirements in a timely manner. Front Range is using Ad Astra to build a comprehensive and student friendly course schedule across all three campuses.

This renewal extends all these software modules from the end of the current contract in November 2024, for an additional five (5) years until November 2029. It also includes likely add-ons for CCD, PCC and PPSC that are currently under discussion between Ad Astra and each college, so that we do not have to return to the Board in the near term for another approval. Any subsequent Ad Astra software licensing or services beyond the total spending authority outlined below will come to the Board separately for approval.

Summary of Ad Astra Renewal and In-Progress Proposals

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Renewals	$629,058.71	$539,780.48	$555,973.90	$572,653.11	$589,832.70
Proposals	$272,240.00	$147,993.20	$152,271.00	$156,677.13	$161,215.44
Total Yearly Value	$901,298.71	$687,773.68	$708,244.90	$729,330.24	$751,048.14
Total Contract Value	$3,777,695.67				

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends the Board approve for CCCS to enter into a five-year agreement with Ad Astra and renew our current licensing and support with Ad Astra products and include spending authority approval of additional products and services that CCD, PCC and PPSC are currently discussing with Ad Astra. Board approval is a not to exceed amount of $3,778,000 over the life of the agreement. Staff recommends that the Board delegate to the System Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration the authority to sign all related contract documents on the condition that all Board and State of Colorado processes are followed.

ATTACHMENT(S):
None