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For immediate release

Official Statement from Dr. Gregory D. Williams

ODESSA (Jan. 19, 2011) — The following is an official statement from Dr. Gregory D. Williams, president of Odessa College:

“Odessa College was surprised at the news of the proposed budget, but we are very aware that this is only the first of many steps in a long and difficult budget process. The first draft of the state budget released by the House of Representatives is cause for concern to Odessa College, but it is not a cause for alarm.

First, the Senate budget bill, which tells the other side of the story, has not been released.

Second, Odessa College is working with several legislators in both the House and the Senate to ensure the College receives continued financial support from the state government.

Third, the record of Odessa College speaks for itself. In recent years, Odessa College has experienced unprecedented growth in terms of enrollment. Since 2007 enrollment has increased by 21.93% and contact hours have increased by 18.26%. Additionally, services to students, service to the community, as well as campus programs and facilities continue to be enhanced.

We are confident that Odessa College will receive its fair share of state higher education funding when the budget process is completed this spring.

Odessa College is limited in what we choose to say at this time because we understand this is an ongoing process. The college will continue to work closely with our legislators and allow the political process to work itself out. Again, we feel strongly that Odessa College will continue to serve our students and our community very well and long into the future.”

For more information, contact Cheri Dalton, director of media relations and publications, at 335-6416.