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For immediate release

Odessa College will receive State funding

ODESSA (March 16, 2011) – In a move that reversed the original proposal in HB 1 to eliminate state funding to four Texas community colleges, the House Appropriations Committee voted last night to restore state formula funding in HB 1 to Odessa College and three other Texas community colleges.

Odessa College, Frank Phillips College, Brazosport College and Ranger College, like all of the other 46 community colleges in Texas, will receive their fair share of state funding once the State budget is approved.

“We are grateful for this news. The business of Odessa College is education and training a workforce that boosts prosperity in West Texas. We will continue to move forward in carrying out our mission, and we will soon begin the process of implementing the changes that the voters of Ector County supported when they approved the \$68.5 million bond package for Odessa College,” said Gregory D. Williams, president of Odessa College.

“We have been patient and have worked with Representative Tryon Lewis and Senator Kel Seliger as they have fought for Odessa College during this difficult time. We appreciate their determination and their continued dedication,” Williams continued. “We also appreciate Chairman Jim Pitts and the other members of the Appropriations Committee for listening to us and the voters of Ector County and our service area as they have expressed their support of and the need for Odessa College.”

The news came as Odessa College and many other community colleges were closed for Spring Break this week. The college will resume spring classes on Monday, March 21.

For more information, please contact Cheri Dalton, director of media relations and publications, 432-352-3074.