

Background:

Staff will provide updates to the Project Development Committee regarding public information activities, the status of new or recently approved projects, and projected funds available for new projects. Meeting materials include the following items for your review prior to the meeting:

- **Grants Risk Assessment Report (found under Tab 3)** – summarizes the risk assessment matrix for considerations of continuation grant awards, new grant awards and provides more detail about monitoring activities for all TCDD funded projects. This format now includes any concerns identified by grants staff from ongoing monitoring of projects.
- **Grant Project Highlights** – The quarterly Grant Project Highlights Report is enclosed for review by Committee members. This report provides highlights of grantee accomplishments for a selected current TCDD funded project. This quarter, highlights from the Texas Tech University *Higher Education* project will be presented by the grantee at the Committee of the Whole.

Staff may also refer to the following printed materials, found behind other Tabs:

- **Public Information Report** - includes recent public information staff activities that create awareness and build connections. (found under Tab 9)
- **TCDD Quarterly Financial Report** –summarizes TCDD’s approved budget and year-to-date expenditures and is used in projecting funds available for additional projects in future years. (found under Tab 4)

<p><u>Project Development Committee</u> <u>Agenda Item 6.</u></p>	<p><u>Expected Action:</u> Information items only; no action is anticipated.</p>
<p><u>Council</u> <u>Agenda Item 13. A.</u></p>	<p><u>Expected Action:</u> The Council will receive a report on key discussions of the Committee on these items. No action is anticipated.</p>

TCDD Leadership and Advocacy Project Highlights
February 2016

Grantee: Texas Tech University
Higher Education

Project Title: Project CASE (Connections for Academic Success & Employment) Year: 5 of 5

Project Location: Statewide

TCDD Budgeted: \$222,924

RFP Intent: The project intent is to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate more inclusive models of post-secondary education through which students with severe disabilities receive the supports they need to succeed in college, university, and/or vocational/technical programs that were originally designed for students with disabilities.

Accomplishments: Project CASE will create a replicable, sustainable higher education model that will build a collaborative partnership with the Burkhart Center, TX Tech University, South Plains College, the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center, DARS, and the business community to identify, recruit, and retain individuals with developmental disabilities across Texas, ages 18-25, who are seeking to further their education beyond high school and securing meaningful paid employment in their field of choice. As of the end of 2015:

- 25 students were actively enrolled in Project CASE
- 100% of Cohorts 1 and 2 have participated in one or more internships
- Cohort 3 students are beginning the process of identifying internships that fit with their area of study
- There are 9 students in Cohort 4
- Project CASE has graduated 12 students with academic degrees or vocational certifications
 - Of those, 5 are competitively employed;
 - 2 have transferred from South Plains College to Texas Tech with Associate Degrees to work on their 4 year academic degrees;
 - 2 are pursuing Masters Degree (both of these are working in their departments as graduate assistants or research assistants);
 - 2 have been accepted into graduate school; and
 - 1 is working with DARS to obtain employment and manage behavioral skills
- In Year 4, 11 students are in paid employment/internships and 5 are in non-paying volunteer internships
- In the final year, Project CASE will work toward increasing access and the capacity of individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD) to attend post-secondary educational training programs across Texas. The project director has volunteered to lead a planning committee for a conference to bring together all of the programs across Texas that are currently supporting individuals with developmental disabilities beyond what typical student disability services staff can offer on a college campus. This could possibly be done in conjunction with the Texas Transition Conference or even as a stand-alone conference.