Board of Trustees
Washtenaw Community College

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

Subject	Date
Network Infrastructure Upgrade Contract	November 17, 2020

BACKGROUND

The rapidly evolving higher education landscape requires a network infrastructure that is stable, robust, consistent and nimble. As the backbone of our communications platform, the network infrastructure enables phone, E-mail, and web communications which are interwoven into all aspects of WCC operations. As a result of the pandemic and the increased use of virtual classrooms and remote/virtual campus operations, a reliable network is all the more critical. In order to prevent Network failures, latency, and a sluggish network experience, it is critical that we upgrade the network infrastructure.

An assessment of the current network infrastructure was completed. The assessment results indicated that majority of the College's network infrastructure is out of date with most switches having an expected end of life date in 2008 or 2015.

In addition to the Wi-Fi enhancements and other improvements already made, it was determined that the College Network Backbone, which includes Core, Distribution, and Access Layer Switches, as well as fiber connectivity, needs to be upgraded this year. Upgrading will result in increased reliability of the network and decrease the possibility of failures and interruption to campus operations. Additional it will provide the infrastructure on which to build and enhance our current online offerings, including teaching, learning and other remote academic services.

The college obtained a quote from MiDeal which is the State of Michigan approved purchasing consortium. The college recommends that the Network Infrastructure upgrade contract be awarded to CDW for an amount not to exceed $1,175,000. This contract will be covered by FY20 ITS budgeted resources.

RECOMMENDATION
That the Board of Trustees approve a contract to purchase Network Infrastructure Equipment from CDW for an amount not to exceed $1,175,000.

A ROLE CALL VOTE WILL BE TAKEN

Prepared by: Todd Kreuger

Title: CIO

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

Rose B. Bellanca, President