DATE: April 25, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr., Chancellor

Subject: GRANT Authorization of a Special Services Contract
(Resolution No. 020425-B14)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A prior resolution (010830-B13) was approved by the Board of Trustees, on August 30, 2001, designating The Rsmart Group, Inc. (TRG) of Phoenix, Arizona, as the technology partner to provide specific technology development services for the National Articulation and Transfer Network (NATN). The contract with TRG was for the period, October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002, the first year of a three-year seed-grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to City College on behalf of the NATN initiative and under the program, Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE). City College serves as the lead institution and fiscal agent for the NATN. The specific tasks undertaken by TRG under this contract have included the following:

1. Development of the initial server system for internal communications and development;
2. Development of requirements for the “basic” version of the network site, including three basic components: (a) articulation/transfer, (b) communications, and (c) college information; and
3. Assisting the NATN office to prepare for the early adopters and pilot implementation of the network site.

In the original FIPSE proposal, which was only funded at the level of $875,000 over the three-year period, the overall plan for developing NATN was estimated to cost in excess of $10 million, of which the initial FIPSE funding was just a beginning. To supplement the seed-funding grant, a Congressional Earmark Allocation has been awarded as an augmentation through FIPSE to the City College of San Francisco ($800,000 for one-year), of which $625,000 is designated to continue the technology development services by TRG. The specific tasks to be undertaken by TRG under the supplemental contract will include the following:

1. Completing the documentation and training materials for the “basic” version and components of the NATN network site;
2. Development of the requirements for the “advanced” version of the network site, including two new components: (a) educational and career planning and (b) student tracking and monitoring;
3. Development of the production server system to support the network site and its external users; and
4. Constructing and documenting the “advanced” components of the network site. A long-range technology development plan illustrating future network capabilities is attached.

The Rsmart Group has a small core staff dedicated to the NATN project and will expand the staff to support the above development activities. The development, testing, and release of the new components and the advanced version will enable NATN to begin deployment of the network site at ten pilot locations throughout the country in 2002-03. The total cost of the contract with The Rsmart Group is $625,000 for the period, May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

RESOLVED: That authorization is hereby given for approval to contract with the Rsmart Group, Inc., for $625,000 for the period May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003, and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration and/or their designee are hereby authorized to execute any and all documents on behalf of the District to effectuate this resolution.

Philip R. Day, Jr. Chancellor, Originator