



**JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
— 1901 —

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTANT  
#R14009**

**Issue Date: August 13, 2014**

RFP Submission Address:  
Business and Auxiliary Services  
Joliet Junior College  
1215 Houbolt Rd  
Joliet, IL 60431

**Nine (9) complete hard copies (bound) of the proposal and one (1) complete electronic copy (via CD/DVD or USB flash drive) must be received by:**

**2:00 p.m. Central Time on September 3, 2014**

**Late proposals and proposals sent by facsimile will not be accepted.**



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## **Background**

Joliet Junior College is a comprehensive community college. The college offers pre-baccalaureate programs for students planning to transfer to a four-year university, occupational education leading directly to employment, adult education and literacy programs, work force and workplace development services, and support services to help students succeed. The College has a combined total of 17,706 full time and part time students enrolled in spring 2013 classes on its main campus located within the city of Joliet, and its five extension campuses located in Romeoville, Morris, Frankfort, Weitendorf, and City Center in downtown Joliet.

## **Vision Statement**

Joliet Junior College, the nation's first public community college, will be a leader in teaching and learning, and the first choice for post-secondary education.

## **Mission Statement**

Joliet Junior College enriches people's lives through affordable, accessible, and quality programs and services. The college provides transfer and career preparation, training and workforce development, and a lifetime of learning to the diverse community it serves.

## **I. OVERVIEW**

The Board of Trustees of Joliet Junior College (hereinafter, "JJC") is requesting proposals from qualified consultants for services relating to the development of Joliet Junior College's Strategic Plan.

The successful firm will provide the necessary resources to assist JJC in creating a comprehensive strategic plan encompassing a series of alternative futures and a common direction and then reshaping the organization to successfully affect the pieces of the plan. The plan must anticipate emerging factors such as technology, demographic shifts, and globalization. A critical component of the plan will address the possible impact of fluctuations in the institution's sources of revenue, such as enrollment, the economy, and state support.



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Additional scope is discussed in the **SCOPE OF WORK** section of this proposal.

## II. RFP SCHEDULE

Date (2014)	Event
August 12, 2014	Vendors contacted via email / advertised
August 20, 2014 @ 12:00 p.m.	Last date/time for submission of written questions via email to <a href="mailto:purchasing@jjc.edu">purchasing@jjc.edu</a>
August 25, 2014(end of business day)	Responses to questions emailed
<b>September 3, 2014 by 2:00 p.m.</b>	Proposals must be submitted to the attention of:Janice Reedus, Director of Business & Auxiliary Service, Campus Center Building A, Room 3100, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431
Week of September 8, 2014	JJC Evaluation Team reviews proposal
Week of September 22, 2014	Possible presentations by two top short-listed firms
October 15, 2014	Notification of Award

## III. INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

**ADVICE:** The department responsible for this RFP is the Business and Auxiliary Services located at Campus Center, Building A, Room 3100, 1215 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431-8938. The JJC contact will be Janice Reedus, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, telephone (815) 280-6640; fax (815) 280-6631.

Questions concerning this RFP will be answered if sent to the Purchasing Department via email to [purchasing@jjc.edu](mailto:purchasing@jjc.edu) on or before August 20, 2014 by 12:00 p.m.

All questions and answers will be published and provided to all potential suppliers by end of business day on August 25, 2014.

**SUBMISSION:** the submission of a response shall be prima facie evidence that the supplier has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quality of work to be performed, the detailed requirements of the project, and the conditions under which the work is to be performed.



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Faxed proposals ARE NOT acceptable. All RFP's must be submitted by the date and time of public opening (see above). **RFPs must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked (typed or blocking lettering only) with the vendor's name, return address, RFP for Strategic Planning Consultant, the opening date and time. Nine (9) complete hard copies of the proposal, an original and eight (8) copies, and one (1) complete electronic copy (CD, DVD or USB flash drive) shall be provided. The hard copies must be in binders.**

RFP's must be addressed to: Joliet Junior College, Janice Reedus, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, Campus Center Room A3102, 1215 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431-8938.

RFP's not submitted in the format as instructed by this RFP will not be accepted. Addendums to this RFP, once filed, may be submitted in a sealed envelope only, properly identified, prior to the opening hour.

Receipt of RFP / Late RFP: Sealed RFP's shall be received at the place and until the time indicated in this RFP. It is the sole responsibility of the vendors to ensure timely delivery of the RFP. JJC will not be responsible for failure of service on the part of the U.S. Postal Service, courier companies, or any other form of delivery service chosen by the vendor.

RFPs received after the date and time specified shall be considered LATE, and shall not be opened.

Accuracy of Proposals / Withdrawal of Proposals prior to RFP Opening: Proposals will represent a true and correct statement and shall contain no cause for claim of omission or error. Proposals maybe withdrawn in writing or by facsimile (provided that the facsimile is signed and dated by vendor's authorized representative) at any time prior to the opening hour. However, no proposal may be withdrawn for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days subsequent to the opening of the RFP without the prior written approval of the Director of Business and Auxiliary Services or Joliet Junior College.

**ADDENDA:** The only method by which any requirement of this solicitation may be modified is by written addendum.

**PROPOSAL DUE DATE:** The proposal must be received on or before **September 3, 2014 by 2:00 p.m.** at the Business and Auxiliary Services Department, Campus Center, Room A3100, 1215 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431-8938

**INSURANCE:**

The supplier performing services for JJC shall:

Maintain worker's compensation insurance as required by Illinois statutes, for all employees engaged in the work.



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Maintain commercial liability, bodily injury and property damage insurance against any claim(s), which might occur in carrying out the services, referenced in this RFP. Minimum coverage will be TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) liability for bodily injury and property damage including product liability and completed operations.

Provide motor vehicle insurance for all owned, non-owned and hired vehicles that are used in carrying out the services described in this RFP. Minimum coverage shall be TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) per occurrence combined single limit for automobile liability and property damage.

**TAXES:**

JJC is exempt from all federal excise, state and local taxes unless otherwise stated in this document. In the event taxes are imposed on the services purchased, JJC will not be responsible for payment of the taxes. The supplier shall absorb the taxes entirely. Upon request, JJC's Tax Exemption Certificate will be furnished.



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## **INDEMNIFICATION:**

The supplier shall protect, indemnify and hold JJC harmless against any liability claims and costs of whatsoever kind and nature for injury to or death of any person or persons and for loss or damage to any property occurring in connection with or in any incident to or arising out of occupancy, use, service, operations or performance of work in connection with the contract, resulting in whole or in part from the negligent acts or omissions of the supplier.

## **DISCLOSURE:**

Vendor shall note any and all relationships that might be a conflict of interest and include such information with the bid.

## **TERM OF CONTRACT:**

Any contract, which results from this RFP, shall be for a period of six months from the date of the contract award.

## **BLACKOUT PERIOD:**

After the College has advertised for proposals, no pre-proposal vendor shall contact any College officer(s) or employee(s) involved in the solicitation process, except for interpretation of specifications, clarification of bid submission requirements or any information pertaining to prebid conferences. Such vendors making such request shall email Janice Reedus, Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, at [purchasing@jjc.edu](mailto:purchasing@jjc.edu) No vendor shall visit or contact any College officers or an employee until after the proposal is awarded, except in those instances when site inspection is a prerequisite for the submission of a proposal. During the black-out period, any such visitation, solicitation or sales call by any representative of a prospective vendor in violation of this provision may cause the disqualification of such bidder's response

## **IV. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Applicability:** These general terms and conditions will be observed in preparing the proposal to be submitted.

**Purchase:** After execution of the contract, purchases will be put into effect by means of purchase orders or suitable contract documents executed by the Director of Business and Auxiliary Services.

**Right to Cancel:** JJC may cancel contracts resulting from this RFP at any time for a breach of any contractual obligation by providing the contractor with thirty-calendar days written notice of such cancellation. Should JJC exercise its right to cancel, such cancellation shall become effective on the date as specified in the notice to cancel.



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**Governing Law and Venue:** This contract shall be construed in and governed under and by the laws of the State of Illinois. Any actions or remedies pursued by either party shall be pursued in the State and Federal Courts of Will County, Illinois, only after Alternate Dispute resolution (ADR) has been exhausted.

**Dispute Resolution:** JJC and the contractor shall attempt to resolve any controversy or claim arising from any contractual matter by mediation. The parties will agree on a mediator and shall share in the mediation costs equally.

**Costs:** All costs directly or indirectly related to preparation of a response or oral presentation, if any, required to supplement and/or clarify a proposal shall be the sole responsibility of and shall be borne by the vendor.

**Proprietary Information:** Vendor should be aware that the contents of all submitted proposals are subject to public review and will be subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. All information submitted with your proposal will be considered public information unless vendor identifies all proprietary information in the proposal by clearly marking on the top of each page so considered, "Proprietary Information." The Illinois Attorney General shall make a final determination of what constitutes proprietary information or trade secrets. While JJC will endeavor to maintain all submitted information deemed proprietary within JJC, JJC will not be liable for the release of such information.

**Negotiation:** JJC reserves the right to negotiate all elements, which comprise the vendor's proposal to ensure the best possible consideration, be afforded to all concerned. JJC further reserves the right to waive any and all minor irregularities in the proposal, waive any defect, and/or reject any and all proposals, and to seek new proposals when such an action would be deemed in the best interest of JJC.

**Award:** The successful vendor, as determined by JJC, shall be required to execute a contract for the furnishing of all services and other deliverables required for successful completion of the proposed project. The supplier may not assign, sell, or otherwise transfer its interest in the contract award or any part thereof without written permission from JJC.

**Retention of Documentation:** All proposal materials and supporting documentation that is submitted in response to this proposal becomes the permanent property of JJC.

**Opening of Proposals:** Proposals will be opened in a manner that avoids disclosure of the contents to competing vendors. Contents for proposals will remain confidential during the negotiations period. Only the proposal number and the identity of the vendor submitting the proposal response will be made available to the public.



## V. FORMAT FOR RESPONSE

To achieve a uniform review process and obtain the maximum degree of comparability, it is required that the proposal be organized in the format specified.

**Nine (9) complete hard copies of the proposal, an original and eight (8) copies, and one (1) complete electronic copy (CD, DVD or USB flash drive) shall be provided. The hard copies must be in binders.**

### 1. Title Page

Show the RFP subject, the name of the vendor's firm, address, telephone number, name of contact person, and date.

### 2. Table of Contents

Clearly identify the materials by sections and page number(s).

### 3. Letter of Transmittal

Limit to one or two pages.

- a. Briefly state the vendor's understanding of the scope of services to be provided and make a commitment to provide the services within the time period.
- b. List the names of the persons who will be authorized to make representations for the vendor, their titles, address, and telephone numbers.

### 4. Profile of the Vendor

- a. Indicate the number of people in the organization and their level of experience and qualifications along with the percentage of their time that will be dedicated to this project.
- b. Provide a list of the vendor's top ten current and prior two-year clients indicating the type of services the organization has performed for each client.
- c. Provide a list of strategic planning projects for institutions of higher learning.
- d. Provide two sample reports prepared for institutions of higher learning.**
- e. Submit independently audited financial statements (one copy only). Such information will be considered in strict confidence.
- f. Indicate any third-party firms involved with your program and state their role(s).



## 5. Scope Section

Clearly describe the scope of services to be provided based upon the information in the scope section. Respond to each item listed.

## 6. Responses to Addendum

## 7. Prices Responses

## 8. Invoicing Procedure

- a. Describe the firm's invoicing procedures.
- b. Include documentation identifying all of the vendor's fees.

## 9. Pro forma Contract

The terms and conditions included in the *Pro forma* Contract apply to any contract resulting from this RFP. In this section of your proposal state any clarifications to the proposed document and your reasons for clarifications. No exceptions are allowed. However, alternative suggestions are encouraged. Please list any alternative suggestions for improvement in costs and/or services provided as an alternative.

## 10. Bidder's Certification Statement

## VI. EVALUATION

In evaluating the proposals submitted, JJC will apply the "Best Value" standard in selecting the supplier to be awarded a contract for this project. Purchase price is not the only criteria that will be used in the evaluation process. Any award resulting from this RFP will be made to that vendor whose offer conforms to the RFP and it is determined to be the most advantageous, of "best value" to JJC, in the sole judgment of JJC. The selection process will include, but not be limited to, the following considerations:

1. The provider's strategic planning experience in a higher education setting.
2. The quality of sample strategic planning reports submitted.
3. The provider's ability to assist JJC in meeting the overall goals.
4. The quality and range of services the firm proposes to provide.
5. The experience and qualifications of the staff that will be assigned to service JJC's account.
6. The extent to which the goods or services meet JJC needs.
7. The firm's overall experience, reputation, expertise, stability and financial responsibility.



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8. The vendor's past relationship with JJC, if any.
7. The ability to provide service within the defined timeframe and in an expedient and efficient manner.
8. Vendor's financial terms offered to JJC.
9. The training options available, if applicable.
10. Any other relevant factor that a private business entity would consider in selecting a supplier.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

The process will be led by a Strategic Planning Committee that includes representatives of JJC's leadership team. The consultant's role will be to support the Strategic Planning Committee in:

- Designing the strategic planning process
- Gathering and analyzing relevant data and existing studies, plans and reports.
- Obtaining a thorough understanding of both the internal and external environment and important issues the college is facing.
- Facilitating a SWOT analysis of the College.
- Engaging the college community in the strategic planning process by facilitating all staff, student, community, and Board of Trustees input sessions regarding the planning, vision and mission.
- Recommending and documenting improvements that may be necessary to connect strategic planning to operational planning.
- Facilitate and document the meetings with the JJC Strategic Planning Committee.
- Developing a method to assess the progress the college is making in addressing the goals, objectives and activities of the strategic plan. This method must allow for department specific tracking and include quantitative performance measures.
- Providing the college with a recommended plan of implementation based upon constituent consensus including assistance with the development of a communication plan.
- Providing a roadmap for an ongoing strategic planning process including an annual timetable for review and evaluation.
- Facilitating a briefing and presentation of key findings/comments to the JJC Board of Trustees at agreed upon intervals and upon completion of the final submission of the plan.



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## **QUANTITY**

There is no guaranteed amount of services intended either expressly or implied, to be purchased or, contracted for by JJC. However the supplier awarded the contract shall furnish all required services to JJC at the stated price, when and if required.

## **PROPOSED PRICING**

The vendor should furnish a list of proposed prices for all services and materials to be used during the term of the contract. The list of proposed prices should be structured to allow for the calculation of unit cost analyses. The prices included herein are to be firm through the contract term, unless noted otherwise by the vendor.



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## CERTIFICATION OF CONTRACT/BIDDER

The below signed contractor/bidder hereby certifies that it is not barred from bidding on this or any other contract due to any violation of either Section 33E-3 or 33E-4 of Article 33E, Public Contracts, of the Illinois Criminal Code of 1961, as amended. This certification is required by Public Act 85-1295. This Act relates to interference with public contracting, bid rigging and rotating, kickbacks and bribery.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTOR/BIDDER

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

THIS FORM **MUST** BE RETURNED WITH YOUR BID TO:

Joliet Junior College District #525  
Director of Business & Auxiliary Services, H-1019  
1215 Houbolt Road  
Joliet IL 60431