

## Terra looking at new housing

### College identifies strategic plan goals

**By Daniel Carson**

Staff writer

**FREMONT** — President Jerome Webster told Terra State Community College's board Wednesday the school is interested in building an on-campus housing/retail complex that could house up to 200 students in its initial phase.

The possibility of Terra adding on-campus student housing is a feature of the college's Vision 2016 strategic plan, which listed the addition as a goal of the college as it looked to increase enrollment and add more features to attract future students.

Webster said the college is looking at forming a 501(c)3 Terra Village Holdings LLC that would oversee the development of an on-campus housing and retail complex.

The Terra president said the housing units could be used in part for student-athletes, if the college also pushes forward with its efforts to establish future intercollegiate athletics programs.

He said that he and college treasurer Randy McCullough, as well as three community members, would be on the board of the corporation overseeing the development of the complex.

Board member Sandra Berlekamp said the estimated cost for the project would be about \$12.5 million.

The college took its first preliminary look at future on-campus housing and retail possibilities located in a "Terra Village" through a market study conducted by Washington D.C.-based program management firm Brailsford and Dunlavy.

Two of the firm's Columbus-based employees spoke to the Terra board in 2013 about their plans for the study and early data gathered from student and faculty/staff surveys.

The firm also conducted focus group interviews that indicated a high level of student interest in campus housing, compared to a lower level of interest from staff and faculty.

Webster said the college had received a \$100,000 gift from a private donor to go toward the

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establishment of Terra Village Holdings LLC.

The college's Vision 2016 strategic plan also came up later at Wednesday's board meeting, when Webster and board member Don Nalley talked about the plan's goal of having a student enrollment of 5,000 by 2015.

Board member Don Nalley said the perception held by some in the community was that the 5,000 goal had been perceived as meaning only students taking for-credit courses.

Webster said that when the college initially established that strategic plan goal, it was viewed in terms of having a combined

5,000 credit, noncredit and workforce certificate students enrolled at Terra. "I will take responsibility for not clarifying that," Webster said. For the spring 2014 semester, there were 4,082 students at Terra enrolled in either credit, noncredit or workforce development- related courses.

[dacarson@gannett.com](mailto:dacarson@gannett.com) 419-334-1046 Twitter: @DanielCarson7

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