



New college coming to Goodyear

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Another college is coming to Goodyear.

Franklin Pierce College would lease city-owned land for \$1 a year near Estrella Parkway and Yuma Road under an agreement with Goodyear. The City Council signed a letter of intent at Monday's meeting, paving the way for the New Hampshire-based college to develop a campus.

"I think this is one of the most exciting things we've had happen to us," Vice Mayor Frank Cavalier said.

This is Goodyear's second such agreement with a private higher education institution.

University of the Incarnate Word, in Texas, reached a similar deal with Goodyear in April.

University of St. Francis, in Illinois, also has expressed interest in a Goodyear campus.

Under the Franklin Pierce agreement, the city could lease to the college 20 acres near the future City Center for a nominal fee up to 30 years. Another 10 acres nearby would be held in reserve for expansion and the college would have two 10-year renewal options.

For its part, Franklin Pierce has agreed to offer a 15 percent tuition discount for Goodyear residents and employees.

Raymond Van der Riet, vice president of strategic initiatives for the college, said the campus would focus on health care and business.

The agreement also permits exploring an extended lease or purchase plan and negotiating a cap on the total tuition discount, which differs from the city's agreement with University of the Incarnate Word, according to Jim Nichols, deputy city manager.

These and other details would be worked out in a final lease agreement, Nichols said.