



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



### GCCISD Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for IMPACT ECHS

With the weather just right for an outdoor event, Randal O'Brien, acting superintendent for Goose Creek CISD, welcomed guests at the recent IMPACT Early College High School Groundbreaking Ceremony at 1415 Market Street. Jose Rodriguez, IMPACT Student Council president and Ayesha Patel, Student Council treasurer, led the pledges to the flags.

"This is a very special day for the students, faculty and staff members at IMPACT as well as for Goose Creek CISD and the community," said Vicky Melo, secretary of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees.

Laura Reyes, principal of IMPACT ECHS, presented the history of IMPACT ECHS, from its inception a little over four years ago to the first graduating class of 89 seniors in June 2014, explaining that many of the graduates had earned associate degrees from Lee College.

"The goal of IMPACT ECHS is to give students the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma in one hand and a college diploma in the other—or at least accumulate a number of college hours. Some of these students might never have had the opportunity to go to college," said Reyes.

Reyes thanked the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees and everyone involved in the construction of the new IMPACT ECHS, along with administrators, faculty and staff at Lee College, for their support. She also thanked Michelle Verdun, principal of the Peter E. Hyland Center, and her staff for sharing their campus with IMPACT for the 2014-15 school year.

Madyson Stewart, 9th grader, read the IMPACT ECHS Creed, and Matthew Broussard, 11th, and Ashnell Polimis, 10th, expressed their appreciation for the new school. Azalia Sprecher, 2014 IMPACT graduate, who attends Bryn Mawr University in Pennsylvania, was home on fall break, so she shared her thoughts about the opportunities IMPACT provided for her and her classmates. Rachel Jarreau, IMPACT teacher, who started at IMPACT when it opened, expressed her gratitude for the new school.



IMPACT ECHS students help Laura Reyes, IMPACT principal, and Richard Smith, academic dean, with the groundbreaking ceremony for the new IMPACT ECHS. Pictured are (l to r) Matthew Broussard, 11th grade; Azalia Sprecher, IMPACT 2014 graduate and student at Bryn Mawr College; Ayesha Patel, 12th grade; Reyes; Smith; Madyson Stewart, 9th grade; and Ashnell Polimis, 10th grade. View more photos [here](#).

O'Brien and some members of the GCCISD Board of Trustees, along with Dr. Dennis Brown, president of Lee College and some members of the Lee College Board of Regents, donned hardhats and shoveled dirt during the traditional groundbreaking. Students and faculty members also participated. The highlight of the event was evident as students and IMPACT faculty members enthusiastically placed their hands in wet concrete, leaving lasting impressions that will be part of the sidewalk at IMPACT. The activities were followed by a reception. Special thanks go to PBK Architects and Marshall Construction for assisting with the ceremony.

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