



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### GCCISD's expansion of Career and Technical Education Program

It is no secret that the Baytown area is experiencing both residential and industrial growth. With the high demand for trained workers in the petrochemical, manufacturing, construction and transportation industries, Goose Creek CISD is teaming up with some experts in those fields to expand the District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and to prepare students for post-secondary education, as well as for the workforce.

"It is important for all students to be college and career ready," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD Superintendent of Schools. "A student who has completed courses to be college ready and participated in Career and Technical Education courses is a stronger, more well-rounded student."

Developing a plan for all Career and Technical Education Clusters for the next 10 years began with the Career and Technical Education Visioning Committee, including educators from each career cluster, along with representatives from Lee College and industry.

"Based on the committee's recommendations for where our programs need to be to meet the demand of the workforce in all 16 Career Clusters, the Facilities Planning Committee determined the facility needs," said Renea Dillon, director of Career and Technical Education for GCCISD.

The Facilities Planning Committee, a group of area residents, business and industry representatives, community leaders and District personnel, was charged with determining priorities for the bond proposal.

The proposal was approved by the GCCISD Board of Trustees for a \$267.54 million Bond Election May 11, but GCCISD is already working on some expansion of the CTE program based on the needs of the community.

Goose Creek CISD has also joined Baytown's Workforce Preparedness Partnership, with representatives from industry, community and education, in a collaborative effort to meet industry's growing demand for skilled labor.

The District has formed a partnership with Bayer and Austin Industrial (BAG) to enhance learning experiences for students and teachers. Goals for this year are to train teachers about industrial and safety standards, provide opportunities for job shadowing, conduct facility safety audits, hire interns, and provide supplies.

Austin Industrial employees interact with the students and teachers, and Bayer absorbs the cost of whatever is needed. One session was about isometric drawings, and others are on welding, quality assurance and quality control. The students enjoy learning from people in industry, according to Dillon.

As a result of this partnership, three GCCISD graduates will benefit from internships at Bayer for a full year.

The interns will rotate through several positions to help them find their strengths. During the internships, industry will cover the full cost of the coursework at Lee College.

Upon successful completion of the paid internship, the students may be eligible to move into full-time positions.

For the 2013-14 school year, Goose Creek Memorial, Robert E. Lee and Ross S. Sterling high schools will offer Forensic Science, which will count as a fourth year of science for students and as the fourth year of the coherent sequence for the Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security Career Cluster.

Plans for some academies on the high school campuses are also in the works for next year.



Goose Creek Memorial's academy will focus on International Business, Logistics and Tourism. The Health Science Academy on the Sterling campus, including multiple labs, will offer students the opportunity for more health care credentials. A Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Academy and a Human and Public Service Careers Academy are planned for the Lee High School campus.

"For Cosmetology, we are working toward transitioning from a two-year program to a three-year program," said Dillon. "The change is that the State has removed the 1000-clock-hour requirement, so we can now grant credit based on modules. Students can earn a cosmetology license and 28 hours of articulated credit at Lee College."

For students enrolling in workforce programs not offered through the District, such as Cisco Technology, Process Technology, Instrumentation and Pipefitting, the CTE Department will pay their dual credit tuition, fees and textbooks.

Dillon hopes to revive the Advanced Construction and Horticulture classes for next year, since they have not had enough students sign up for them for the past three years.

"The big push is to be able to provide industry credentials, in the form of licenses or certificates, for seniors who have participated in a four year coherent sequence of courses in any of the areas. Most employers are requiring credentials," she said.

To further aid in training students for post secondary education and the workforce, the Agricultural, Metal Fabrication, Construction Technology and Welding classes at SCC and on all three high school campuses are implementing the NCCER core curriculum.

"This is the beginning curriculum required of construction employees. Training for our teachers, along with the curriculum, was provided by the local Construction and Maintenance Education Foundation (CMEF)," said Dillon.

The practicum courses are now available for students who wish to learn specific skills and to receive pre-employment experience in their chosen pathways. This option allows students to take one hour of instruction daily to prepare them for the workforce and to go to work for additional training. Students would take their four core classes, leaving three classes free for the practicum class and work.

"Although we have already increased our CTE offerings, passing the Bond would provide expansion of Stuart Career Center, along with expansion of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at all three high schools to help meet student and workforce needs," said Dillon.

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