




GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goose Creek, Lee College agree on lease agreement for early college high school

Goose Creek CISD and Lee College have been partners in educating local students since the college was established in 1934 — and housed at Robert E. Lee High School.

In fact, it was the Board of Trustees of the Goose Creek Independent School District who agreed in 1931 that a junior college should be established to provide educational opportunity to students who could not otherwise afford it.

This week, that long and storied partnership added another chapter with the approval of a long-term agreement to house Goose Creek CISD's IMPACT Early College High School at Lee College's Rundell Hall.

IMPACT Early College High School blends high school and college work with the goal that students will graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree or 60 college credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree.

In brief, the agreement between Lee College and Goose Creek CISD is a lease agreement for the second floor of Rundell Hall, currently under renovation. The term of the lease is 20 years.

The goal is for renovations to Rundell Hall to be completed by August 2013 and ready for students for the beginning of next school year.

Goose Creek CISD will pay \$4 million for the entire 20-year term of the lease.

Coincidentally, under the leadership of Dean Walter Rundell, Lee College successfully separated from the Goose Creek public school district in 1965. On Aug. 18, 1965, Lee College's first Board of Regents, appointed by the public school board, and assumed governance of the college.

Several decades later, the Hall named for the esteemed dean is solidifying Goose Creek CISD's partnership with Lee College.

"Goose Creek CISD and Lee College have a wonderful history of collaboration. This endeavor is another extension of that solid, productive relationship," said Dr. Salvador Cavazos, Goose Creek CISD superintendent. "Through our Early College High School, Goose Creek CISD will increase the number of first generation college graduates, equipping them with the education and experience they need to succeed in life and family-supporting careers."

Now in its third year, IMPACT targets students underrepresented in higher education such as low-income, first-generation college students, English language learners, and students at-risk of not graduating.

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This year, the Exemplary-rated high school added 106 new students from all five Goose Creek CISD junior schools. Total enrollment is approximately 300.

IMPACT is an acronym for Intelligent Minds Participating in Acts of Courageous Talent.

During the 2011- 2012 school year, IMPACT students earned an amazing 2,652 college hours and have an average GPA of 3.1 which is higher than the GPA of the general student population at Lee College. These students are now juniors and sophomores in high school, and many of them are over half way to an associate degree.

IMPACT Principal Karen Smithson said it is possible that at least two students will complete their associate degree in May even though they have not completed the requirements for a high school diploma yet.

Also, 42 IMPACT students have been inducted into the Lee College chapter of the national community college honor society, Phi Theta Kappa. To be invited to participate in the honor society, the students had to complete 15 college hours with at least a 3.5 GPA.

Twenty-two students completed college algebra during the spring semester of their sophomore year, and seven of them are enrolled in college pre-calculus for the fall.

This fall students are enrolling in an increasingly difficult course load that includes college pre-calculus, algebra, chemistry, biology, history, speech, process technology, English, Psychology, sociology, government, computer science, criminal justice, and fine arts.

Recognizing the need for Goose Creek CISD to foster a more educated workforce to meet the demands of our changing economy inspired the creation of this innovative partnership with Lee College.

In the Fall of 2010, the Goose Creek Board of Trustees approved the creation of an Early College High School partnership with Lee College.

The Texas Education Agency awarded Goose Creek CISD an Early College High School grant for \$455,500 to open the new school in the 2010-2011 school year.



