

South Texas Members Agency Affiliations

South Texas Community Engagement Members Agency Affiliation

South Texas College

South Texas College is a comprehensive college offering the Bachelor of Applied Technology, and associate degrees and certificates in over 100 degree and certificate program options.

Academic courses are transferable to colleges and universities and the curriculum includes distance learning, weekend courses and a newly added mini-mester.

Since its inception in 1993, South Texas College has grown from 1,000 to more than 20,000 students, and from a faculty and staff of 267 to 1664. The college has also grown from one campus to five campuses. STC has three campuses in McAllen, one campus in Weslaco and one campus in Rio Grande City.

STC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the Bachelor of Applied Technology, the Associate of Arts, the Associate of Sciences, and the Associate of Applied Sciences Degrees and Certificates. It is also approved for veteran's educational training in Certificate and Associate of Applied Sciences Degree programs by the Texas Education Agency.

Mission Statement

South Texas College is a world-class comprehensive institution of higher learning providing premier educational and workforce programs and services in response to the needs of the region.

Vision

A better quality of life for our communities.

Core Values

- Student Success
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Learning
- Community
- Opportunity.

Guiding Principles

- Be a premier learning-centered higher education institution where student and community success are paramount
- Serve as the cornerstone for the economic vitality of South Texas

- Foster an environment for the students and community to achieve a better quality of life
- Nurture a culture where collaboration is valued and achievement is recognized.

Strategic Directions

- South Texas College commits to student learning as the foundation of student success through excellence in teaching and service, faculty and staff empowerment, professional development, and accountability.
- South Texas College proudly provides opportunities to all students with high expectations for their success.
- South Texas College leads the transformation of the region to a “college-going” culture whereby attending and completing higher education is expected for all.
- South Texas College serves as the catalyst for regional economic prosperity and social mobility.
- South Texas College models professionalism through integrity, mutual respect, civility, trust, and collaboration.
- South Texas College champions a culture of excellence based on evidence.

The Starr County Industrial Foundation (SCIF) is a non-profit organization founded and supported by local government and business leaders. The purpose of the organization is to further develop and diversify the local economy through sound, controlled economic growth. Over the years the SCIF has developed a core competency in a varied spectrum of administrative and promotional roles, which have placed it in a position to capitalize industrial and economic development in the Starr County region through expansion and recruitment.

McAllen Chamber of Commerce

Working together, members of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce are making a difference in the future of McAllen. The McAllen Chamber, with more than 1600 members, is committed to powering the economy for South Texas, working to retain and attract long learners and productive citizens in a global society through a program of educational excellence utilizing technology and actively involving parents and the community.

La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)

César Chávez founded LUPE, rooted in the belief that members of the low-income community have the responsibility and the obligation to organize themselves, and through their association, begin to advocate and articulate for the issues and factors that impact their lives. Further, César Chávez believed that for people to have ownership of this endeavor, they have to invest of themselves, their efforts and resources, to sustain it. The membership, and the responsibility that comes with it, form the base that is the power of the organization.

The Valley Alliance of Mentors for Opportunities & Scholarships (VAMOS) is a nonprofit organization run primarily by devoted volunteers. It all started in March of

1996 when 62 local business and community leaders assembled to improve and broaden the educational opportunities for Hispanic students in South Texas. Its main function is to raise money for academically accomplished yet low-income Hispanic students. Every year, VAMOS sponsors four-year scholarships to deserving high school graduates from low-income backgrounds for enrollment at a university of their choice. In addition, VAMOS not only supports students by paying for tuition & books but with motivation and encouragement through its mentoring program that monitors students throughout their college careers to ensure their success.

Hidalgo County is the seventh most populous county in Texas, located in the far south of the state. Its largest city is McAllen and it borders the International Trade Zone with Mexico.

University of Texas Pan Am

UTPA has a total of 17,337 students coming from 28 different states, and over 40 countries around the world. UTPA enrolls the highest number and highest percentage of Hispanics (86%) among Texas public universities. Of the total student population, 2,261 are graduate students participating in 48 graduate level programs.

Work Force Solutions

Workforce Solutions for South Texas is a local organization that implements a system of services focused to increase our community's economic development – as a resource for employers to access workforce they are seeking, and training individuals to be successfully employed.

McAllen Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is a not-for-profit corporation under contract with the City of McAllen to create jobs for McAllen by attracting new industry and helping existing companies to expand. The MEDC team works with prospective industrial clients, handles marketing and public affairs, and provides corporate support to existing manufacturing and supplier companies. Industrial clients are individuals who represent companies or industries looking for a site to expand or relocate their plant or service operation. They include the full realm from suppliers to manufacturers.

The City of McAllen, Texas

McAllen is located at the very southern tip of Texas in the Rio Grande Valley. Its southern boundary is about five miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rio Grande River. The city's warm climate may account for its nickname, City of Palms. It is also hot in terms of population growth, with one of the fastest growth rates in the country. It went from a tiny town of just 150 people in 1910 to 137,463 residents as of 2005.

Much of the explosive growth that has recently characterized McAllen can be attributed to the establishment of NAFTA in 1994. Since then economic activity in the city has been inextricably linked to Mexico. After the ratification of the trade agreement numerous multinationals have moved into the region to assemble products made in Mexican maquiladoras. In addition, many upper- and middle-class Mexicans from Monterrey and Tampico come to McAllen to shop at malls and outlet stores. According to Cynthia

Brown, Center for Border Economic Studies, \$1.4 billion dollars spent by Mexicans was added to the area's economy and paid for 41,000 jobs. In order to accommodate the increased traffic of visitors and goods the city has built three large-scale bridges (the last of which is to be completed in 2009).

Despite the area's importance as a shopping and manufacturing mecca it straddles two of the poorest counties (Starr and Hidalgo) in the nation (based on a per capita income of \$7,069 and \$9,899 respectively). The region's poverty is exasperated by the educational attainment levels of the community, in which half the adults over 25 have less than a ninth grade education. In order to help develop economic opportunities the city is working to expand access to quality education.

In demographic terms McAllen is one of the most heavily Latino/Hispanic cities in the country with over 80% of the population identifying as such in the 2000 census. Within this group there are many different levels and stratifications including both new immigrants and old Texas families. Nonetheless, many of the mutual aid and fraternal groups based in the city specifically target Hispanic residents.

LJISD- Statistics

Student Population- Currently, we have 25,384 students (23,444 peak for 2006) | Annual growth of 1,400 students per year

199.6% are Hispanic

191.8% are eco. disadvantaged 150.1% limited English proficient

122.6% are Migrant

133% are Mexican Immigrants, and 19.1% are recent immigrants 166.3% are at-risk of educational failure 11,083 2006 graduates for 2007, we expect 1,151 11,652 Teachers, out of these, 250 are new.

Educational Programs

Academies

"Quality educational programs that prepare students for successful careers in their chosen field. Offers concurrent enrollment opportunities and job shadowing."

Sylvan Learning is a national tutoring center with over 1,200 locations in the US and Canada. For nearly 30 years Sylvan has helped over 3 million children and adults achieve their academic goals. Sylvan supports all subjects and grade levels. Individualized attention and personalized programs are the keystones to Sylvan's success.

Communications Visual and Performing Arts Academy – The first in the Rio Grande Valley, offers Choir, Orchestra, Band, Mariachi Los Coyotes, Grupo Folklorico Tabasco and Drama.

Mathematics Science and Technology Academy – Focus is on Mathematics, Science, and Technology fields of study with opportunities for college credit.

Health Sciences Academy – Students can become certified as Electrocardiograph Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Nurse's Aide or Licensed Vocational Nurse.

La Joya ISD

The La Joya Independent School District, located in the western portion of Hidalgo County consist of more than 226 square miles stretching west of Mission to Sullivan City, including the smaller communities of La Joya, Palmview and Peñitas. Boundaries extend from the United States border formed by the Rio Grande River to the 13 mile line near McCook.

With a peak enrollment of 23,444 students for the 2004-2005 academic school year, of which Hispanic students account for over 99 percent of enrollment, La Joya ISD is one of the fastest growing school districts in Texas with an estimated increase of 1,400 students per year. Overall, La Joya ISD boasts 27 campuses seventeen elementary schools, six middle schools, an alternative education center, and three high schools and employs over 4,260 individuals from all across the Rio Grande Valley and some from overseas.

Because of the district's tremendous growth, La Joya I.S.D. continues with construction projects every year to accommodate the fast growing student population. The most recent school facilities include Juan N. Seguin Elementary located on 7 mile-line and Western Road in Mission and Emiliano Zapata Elementary located on 7 3/4 mile-line and La Homa Road in Mission.

Additional construction projects for the Summer 2005 include Elementary No. 19 and 20 set to begin in August or September of 2005 and ready to house students by next August of 2006. Locations of these two elementary schools are 1 1/2 mile north La Homa Road (north of Memorial Middle School) and 4-mile line and Bentsen Palm Drive. The district is also in the planning stages for High School No. 2 that will house students in grades 9th through 12th and a Middle School No. 6, but the locations for these facilities have yet to be determined.

Just as the growth in student population remains strong in La Joya, the district has a strong and rich educational history. The first schools were established during the 1800's to provide educational opportunities for the people living in western Hidalgo County who did not have access to existing educational institutions. One of the first of these schoolhouses was build in Havana in 1849 when citizens from the towns and villages of Abram (Ojo de Agua), Peñitas, Tabasco (now La Joya), Havana, Los Ebanos and Cuevitas established a place of learning. Although far from the little red schoolhouse one might envision, the structure of rock and adobe sheltered the students of this area and gave them a solid education. This building would later become known as the La Joya Independent School District.

Building Future Talent Coalition

Hidalgo County has set an ambitious goal to build the size and capacity of its workforce. To maintain a competitive advantage in the global economy of the 21st Century, Hidalgo County has to build, retain, and attract a talented workforce. This vision can be achieved through integrated workforce and economic development efforts centered on a common mission of improving the educational attainment of the residents of Hidalgo County. The

long-term result is to improve employment, incomes, and wealth creation for individuals, businesses, and communities in Hidalgo County.

Hidalgo County, The University of Texas-Pan American, South Texas College, Region One Education Service Center, Workforce Solutions, State and Federal legislators and other valuable partners and volunteers have formed a coalition for developing and advancing an action agenda for building future talent; communicating best practices; and fostering creativity and innovations for local and regional success in creating a competitive workforce.

For more information contact Sofia Hernandez at the County Judge Salina's office.