



## **Presidential Search: Institutional Profile**

### **Current Environment**

With the retirement of current Lee College president Dr. Dennis Brown in January 2020, the College has initiated the search for its 14<sup>th</sup> president in 85 years. The College's new leader will take the helm of an institution that is uniquely positioned both geographically and strategically within the Texas Gulf Coast Community College Consortium. While the Lone Star College, Houston Community College and San Jacinto Community College Districts lie to the West, Galveston College and College of the Mainland to the south, the majority of the College's predominately eastern-facing service area is bordered only by Lamar University and their two-year arm, the Lamar Institute of Technology. Currently, the College is actively partnering with Lamar University in the delivery of a pre-engineering pathway from Lee College into Lamar University's engineering program and has just concluded its third year of participating in the Model United Nations, while mounting for the fifth straight year one of the most successful collegiate debate programs in the nation. A singular point of pride for the College is not just one thing, one program, one initiative or one mandate – it is the result of the combined efforts of everyone at the college to identify the one point of access that will empower that one student to shine, achieve and excel.

Fueled largely by the petrochemical industry, the current pace of commercial, industrial and residential expansion happening within the College's service area is nothing less than historic. Rural communities such as Mont Belvieu, Dayton and Liberty are witnessing once great expanses of fallow land and pastures become supplanted with industrial, commercial and residential construction overnight. Existing infrastructure struggles to keep pace while both commercial and residential contractors hunger for skilled workers. Construction crews are often operating on 24/7 schedules to answer the pressures of market demand with the rapid build-out of industrial footprints.

Lay this array of economic drivers over the College's current service area and what emerges is an environment full of opportunity, compelled by strategic need. Consequently, Lee College is poised for a level of growth, fueled by strategic response, that it has never seen before in the entirety of its 85-year history.

The estimated Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) for the Baytown area over the next five years is projected to land conservatively around \$8.1 billion. To say this projection represents tremendous opportunity for the area is an understatement. However, with that opportunity comes the expressed need for disciplined strategic vision and a passion to serve a complex ecosystem of stakeholders.

## History

Since its establishment in 1934, Lee College has grown and adapted to serve the evolving and dynamic needs of its regional community. The College's service area spans a broad gamut that represents both rural and metropolitan populations embedded in an area that has experienced explosive economic development within the petrochemical and healthcare sectors.

The college is twenty-five miles east of Houston in Baytown, TX, near the confluence of the Houston Ship Channel and Galveston Bay. Originally founded as a junior college during the Great Depression by the voters of then Goose Creek school district, later becoming the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. The Board of Regents voted in 1948 to remove, "junior," from the college's name as they did not want to diminish the perceived level and value of the education and training available from the college, nor did they want to inadvertently discourage adults from taking courses. This sensitivity to the needs of its constituents has been a hallmark of the College since its beginning.

In 1966, Lee College, under the leadership of Dean Rundell and George Beto, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Corrections, began a program of courses in the state's prison system. The program has expanded over the years and is now one of the College's highest-enrolled areas. The Huntsville Center's graduating class of 2017 was the largest in its history to date. The program has grown from 182 students that first year to more than 1,200 students today, ranking it not only as one of the oldest but also one of the largest programs of its kind in the nation.

By the early 1990s Lee College had become a comprehensive community college offering a wide spectrum of instruction in credit classes to students in the Baytown area, as well as extension courses in in Liberty and Dayton. Course offerings included academic, technical-vocational, and non-credit continuing-education classes, as well as a basic education program for those seeking to improve skills in reading, writing, arithmetic, and language. Enrollment in the fall of 1999 was 5,887.

## Today

Shortly after being named in the top 150 community colleges in the United States by the Aspen Institute for the fifth consecutive year, as well as a Bellwether Award finalist for its Weekend College, Lee College posted its largest enrollment to date in the fall of 2018 with an unduplicated population of 8, 234. This number was a 4% increase over the prior fall of 2017. Along with non-credit workforce and community education courses, the college offers more than 100 associates degree and certificate programs with a current total budget of \$77,844,655. . The college has conferred just under 12,000 degrees and certificates in the last five years. The top ten performing degree and certificate programs are:

- Business Management (Huntsville)
- Process Technology
- Instrumentation
- CADD and Engineering Technology
- General Studies

- Business Management
- Welding Technology (Huntsville)
- Culinary (Huntsville)
- Nursing
- Horticulture (Huntsville)

Lee College offers more than 100 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as non-credit workforce and community education courses, that prepare its diverse student body for advanced higher education; successful entry into the workforce; and a variety of in- demand careers. With the main campus and McNair Center located in Baytown, Texas, and a satellite center in nearby Liberty, the college serves a geographic area of more than 220,000 residents that continues to expand. The College's current service area includes the school systems of Goose Creek, Anahuac, Barbers Hill, Baytown Christian Academy, Chrysalis, Crosby, Dayton, Devers, East Chambers, Hardin, Hardin-Jefferson, Huffman, Hull-Daisetta, Kountze, Liberty and West Hardin.

A commitment to students and need-based outreach makes for a dynamic and responsive climate at Lee College evidenced by a healthy roster of notable awards, acknowledgements and achievements that is impressive by any standard:

- Achieving the Dream 2019 Leader College of Distinction
- 2019 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Winner for Faculty Innovation – Dr. Paul Allen
- 2018 Association of Community College Trustees Regional Equity Award Winner and National Finalist
- 2018 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Winner for Advancing Diversity
- 2018 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Finalist for College/Corporate Partnership
- 2018 Bellwether Award Finalist for Instructional Programs & Services recognizing Lee College's Weekend College
- Aspen Prize Top 150 Community Colleges from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide for the fifth consecutive year
- 2017 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Finalist for Advancing Diversity, Faculty Innovation and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership
- 2016 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Finalist for Faculty Innovation, Exemplary Board/CEO and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership
- 2015 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Winner for Student Success
- 2015 American Association of Community Colleges Award Finalist for Exemplary Board/CEO
- 2014 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Star Award for Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success
- 2015 Top 10 Best Community Colleges in the Nation (SmartAsset)
- 2015 Top 50 Best Community Colleges in the Nation (WalletHub)

- 2015 2nd in the Nation for Value of Technical Degrees (Brookings Institution)
- 2015 Top 50 Associate-Degree Producers in the Nation for Science Technologies/Technicians, Precision Production and Engineering Technologies, Engineering-Related Fields (Community College Week)
- Lead Institution, Texas Gulf Coast Community College Petrochemical Initiative since
- U.S. Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program Title V Grant – \$2.6 million
- U.S. Department of Education Hispanic-Serving Institutions since
- STEM Grant – \$1.14 million (2016) and \$4.2 million (2011)
- 2016 U.S. Department of Education Second Chance Pell Pilot
- Lee College Huntsville Center, the largest prison education program in Texas
- Military Friendly® School and Lead Institution, College Credit for Heroes
- Mendoza Debate Society at Lee College: International Public Debate Association (IPDA) National Community College Champions for four consecutive years: 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, and 2016/2017, 2nd Place nationally in 2017/2018. James Madison Cup Champions in 2015 against Ivy League completion, Finalists in 2016, 2017, and 2018
- Nationally Recognized Honors Program
- 2018 IMPACT Early College High School ranked 11<sup>th</sup> of 191 schools in Houston area
- Lee College Education Center – South Liberty County/Dual Credit Institute

## **Dual Credit**

The Dual Credit program at Lee College has seen consistent growth in enrollment, revenue and contact hours. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has asked Texas' public institutions of higher education to confer 60% of all 24-34 year- old Texans with degrees by 2030. Lee College is working to pursue that target. Fall 2018 saw the College's Dual Credit and Early College High Schools (GCCISD's IMPACT & Stuart Career Center) post a robust enrollment of 2,293 students in the Lee College service area. Consequently, this effort supports the College's commitment to THECB's goal. As of last fall, 23% of the College's enrollment was under the age of 18, working to quicken the pace towards THECB's 2030 target. Data shows that taking just one college level class within an identified area of interest while still in high school encourages students to make a decision as to their career path, thereby increasing the chance they will move on to college after high school graduation. During this process students and their parents are counseled on the state's HB 5 endorsement cluster metric and transitioned into the College's Guided Pathways.

## **Early College High Schools: IMPACT and Stuart Career Center**

From ranking 31<sup>st</sup> (2017) to 11<sup>th</sup> (2018) in the Houston area, IMPACT Early College High School, part of the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD), is moving up, according to annual rankings by Children at Risk, a non-profit organization that studies Texas' public education systems. This collaboration with GCCISD achieved success after just six years. This success led Lee College to open a

second program at Stuart Career Center Early College High School, also in Baytown and part of GCCISD, which supports technical education for the college's successful workforce development initiatives.

### **McNair Center - Baytown**

The McNair Center opened in 2008 and quickly outgrew the available space, prompting a major renovation that was completed in 2011. The latest expansion project was funded through a bond issue approved in 2013 by 72 percent of voters. For years, Lee College has offered cosmetology, non-credit healthcare, and other non-credit classes at this state-of-the-art facility located at 3411 I-10 West in Baytown. Now, supported by bond-funded renovations, the McNair Center has expanded its course offerings to Machining, Millwright, Piping and Welding as well industry-centric non-credit and customized training.

### **Lee College Education Center – South Liberty County (LCEC)**

Lee College Education Center – South Liberty County (LCEC) is centrally located on State Highway 146 bypass in Liberty. The center reflects the college's commitment to supporting academic resources and workforce training offered throughout the region. The LCEC offers a dual credit institute, post-secondary educational programs, fast-track workforce training and community education to students in the South Liberty County area.

The Dual Credit Institute serves students of five neighboring school districts — Anahuac, Dayton, Liberty, Hardin and Hull-Daisetta — in offering coursework in the high-demand technical fields of process technology, electrical technology, allied health transfer and academic transfer courses.

Community Education Programs are offered through the Harris County Department of Education. HCDE's highly qualified teachers provide GED classes as well as English as a second language (ESL) classes at the LCEC. HCDE Adult Education offers working adults the opportunity to gain the skills needed to take advantage of better job opportunities or move into higher education.

### **Center for Workforce and Community Development (CWCD)**

Re-imagined and formally re-organized in 2013, the Center for Workforce and Community Development is strategically focused on regional workforce development, forging industry partnerships and expanding community engagement portals throughout the college's service pipeline. Programs housed in the Center include Professional Development, Personal Enrichment, Online Learning, Computer Technology, Kids at College Summer Camp Program, Senior Adult & Travel Program, Healthcare Training, Fast-Track Industrial Craft Training, The Risk Management Institute, The Small Business Development Center,

Customized Corporate Training, Fiber Optics Network Certification, Adult Basic Education/GED/ESL, and the Lee College Wellness Center.

As a revenue generator and industry partner, the Center is recognized throughout the region as a critical and valuable component in the training-to-career pipeline. This characteristic of the Center, combined with its strategic focus, enables the college to pivot fluidly between credit and non-credit delivery for both students and industry, demonstrating its value as an economic development driver.

### **Partners and Resource Links**

Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation

<http://baytownedf.org/>

Community College Petrochemical Initiative (CCPI)

<https://www.gulfcoastcc.org/ccpi/>

East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA)

<http://www.ehcma.org/>

Economic Alliance Houston Port Region

<https://www.allianceportregion.com/>

Texas Gulf Coast Community College (TGCC)

<https://www.gulfcoastcc.org/>

Temple Foundation

<http://tlltemple.foundation/>

Greater Texas Foundation

<https://www.greatertexasfoundation.org/>

Greater Houston Partnership (GHP)

<https://www.houston.org/>

UpSkill Houston

<https://www.houston.org/upskillhouston>

Lee College Publications

<http://www.lee.edu/publications/>

Lee College OnPoint

<http://leecollegeonline.com/onpoint/>

Lee College News and Archive

<https://leecollegenews.com/>