Lee College Workforce instructors Gilbert Sandoval, right, and Jonathan Fuller prepare the Emerson PLP lab equipment for an Advanced Technician Training course for an industry partner. The Advanced Technician Training Center designs and delivers hands-on training and enhanced troubleshooting exercises to experienced technicians for industrial partners who need an immediate return on investment. Through adherence to safety protocols and CDC guidance, Lee College is able to deliver hands-on skills training to incumbent employees during the pandemic.
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Close the knowledge gap and empower your team today!
Goose Creek CISD recently unveiled its new Instrumentation Lab at Robert E. Lee High School. The lab offers state-of-the-art simulation equipment and hands-on training to help prepare high school students seeking a career in chemical processing and other manufacturing industries.

“Enabling students to complete their Instrumentation Technology Certificate as part of their high school experience removes many barriers that students face post-graduation and helps them enter the workforce in a high-wage, high-demand field,” said Renea Dillon, Director of Career and Technical Education at GCCISD.

ExxonMobil Baytown Area was in attendance at the ribbon cutting to show support for Goose Creek and their long-standing partnership with Robert E. Lee High School. Baytown Technology and Engineering Complex (BTEC) Site Manager Rob Bacon, along with employees from ExxonMobil’s mechanical department, joined Robert E. Lee students for an in-depth tour of the lab. Bacon was one of the guest speakers. “It’s exciting to see GCCISD’s investment in the instrumentation lab that will help build the skills needed to work in our facilities and in industry. We have a strong need for instrument technicians and engineers as we continue to advance automation and this lab helps build those skills at a much earlier age to help equip students much sooner for when they go out into the workforce,” said Bacon. “We look forward to seeing the positive impact that it will have on the lives of the students and the community.”
Goose Creek CISD has completed or is nearing completion on several Career and Technical Education Academy renovation projects.

The biggest CTE renovation project is the Stuart Career Tech High School. Over the course of two bond programs – 2013 and 2019 – Stuart Career Tech High School has undergone several renovations in multiple phases. These renovations have helped the district enroll 300 students to date. The district’s goal is to increase enrollment to 900 over the course of the next few years.

“These renovations are critical for students to learn the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the 21st century workplace,” said Renea Dillon, GCCISD’s director of career and technical education. “From innovative STEM labs to simulated medical facilities, the district’s vision is to create an industry-driven, real-world environment for its students.”

The Stuart Career Tech High School renovations, designed by Pfluger Architects and constructed by Bartlett Cocke, comprise 170,000 square feet with spaces for various academies, as well as administration and academic areas. In 2014, the district started Phase 1 to convert what was at the time an elementary school into the Early College CTE High School. Phase 1 included the creation of a culinary academy featuring meat processing, baking and working commercial kitchen, and restaurant. This phase also included computer labs, science labs and classrooms.

Phase 2 added 10 additional classrooms to the high school and increased enrollment.

Phase 3, which was completed in summer 2019, added a veterinarian tech lab, floral lab, automotive and diesel lab, welding lab, horticulture lab, autobody collision lab, and expansion of the welding and pipe fitting programs.

Phase 4 is currently in construction and will be completed this summer. Phase 4 adds a new administration and academic wing to the campus. Increasing approximately 45,000 square feet to the existing building footprint, the addition includes a new office administration area, digital communications academy, information technology academy, media center, classrooms and computer labs.

“The renovation of the CTE academies is a major milestone in the District’s quest to provide its students a strong foundation for long-lasting success,” said JP Grom, vice president at Lockwood Andrews & Newnam, the firm serving as the program manager.

The district also renovated its East Annex building located on the Ross Sterling High School campus. This building will house the Career Academy for Future Educators and the Health Science Academy. The 1,700-square-foot CAFE academy will prepare high school students seeking a career in education. The single-story academy has flexible lab spaces that will serve as a simulated classroom where high school students can shadow teachers in a real-world setting. The district enrolled 71 students in year one, with plans to increase enrollment to 400 students.

The 6,000-square-foot, single-story Health Science Academy will prepare high school students seeking a career in the medical field. It features exam rooms, long-term care rooms, pharmacy lab and ambulance simulator to replicate a real-world work environment. Students are afforded the chance to learn via hands-on training by certified professionals. 400 students are currently enrolled in this academy.

Additionally, the district renovated its General Construction Lab into a college-level Instrumentation Lab. The single-story, 3000-square-foot academy, located at Robert E. Lee High School, will prepare high school students seeking a career in chemical processing and other manufacturing industries. Teaming up locally with Lee College, the program offers state-of-the-art simulation equipment, as well as hands-on training by industry professionals. Students from this academy will also develop skills required to be a successful instrumentation technician. The program enrolled 40 students in year one. The goal is 50 per year.

BKP Architects designed the CAFE, Health Science and Instrumentation Lab Academy renovations and Comex Corporation served as the general contractor.
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In 1987, the Baytown Chamber of Commerce launched a pilot program matching three businesses to three schools. Today the program — Partners in Education — links local businesses with most all Goose Creek campuses and programs.

Sponsoring enterprises provide a variety of activities for the students of the campuses they are partnered with. Those activities include tutoring and mentoring programs, helping with perfect attendance and academic incentives as well as organizing pen pal exchanges lunch buddy programs, field trips and guest speakers.

While the financial support is greatly appreciated because it provides additional instructional materials and incentives for our students, one of the best things is the opportunity the program gives our students to interact with successful adults employed by a local industry. Here is a salute to some Baytown Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education.

Highlands Junior School

Highlands Junior School and Community Toyota*Honda*Kia are focusing on learning, achieving, and making a difference together during this unprecedented school year.

Community Toyota*Honda*Kia have contributed a gift card to Massage Envy for every month to be given to a Teacher of the Month, they donated bookmarks to conclude Red Ribbon week campaign in October for each of the 1,200-plus students, and most recently met one of the largest instructional needs this year.

Due to new state testing methods, those students who receive small group oral administration will now be receiving that accommodation through the use of technology. The Community group has purchased 150 headphones to ensure the best sound quality and maximum reliability during those testing days.

Victoria Walker Elementary

ExxonMobil BOP recognized the need of faculty and staff for chamber partner Victoria Walker Elementary during hybrid instruction. BOP supplied Walker with much needed materials to make their Wellness Room stress-free and inviting.

ExxonMobil BOP also provided all staff and student with mask lanyards that displayed the school name and mascot. These lanyards will ensure that staff and students do not misplace their mask and help keep up with them during the day.

Exxon Mobil BOP provided a Chick-Fil-A luncheon for staff in celebration of the safe return to face to face learning with students. At this luncheon, Walker said “Happy Retirement” to their long time PIE representative, Twila Argent.

During Red Ribbon Week, bracelets were provided to students to wear as a reminder “Be Happy, Be Brave, Be Drug Free!”

At the beginning of each month, Victoria Walker Elementary holds a monthly college trivia challenge. The student’s that correctly identifies the name of the college wins a prize. ExxonMobil BOP provided these amazing prizes for students, which included cups, wooden trains, finger football, helmets, tattoos, stickers, and much more.

Walker received two substantial, beautiful new flags to replace the worn American and Texas flags outside the school.

Each six weeks they celebrate student achievement. The classroom with perfect attendance for the six weeks will get a chance to spin the wheel. This year prizes will be placed on the new prize wheel. Prizes listed include flip flop day, dance party, extra recess, or special lunch with school staff member to name a few prizes.

Stephen F. Austin Elementary

Stephen F. Austin Elementary started the year off with a delicious breakfast from Texas First Bank, that provided...
For more than 30 years, ExxonMobil has been involved with the Partners in Education (PIE) program sponsored by the Baytown Chamber of Commerce. Each academic year, the Baytown Area sites come together to find ways to offer support to each school in order to keep their students engaged on the path to success.

In the aftermath of the inclement freezing weather, ExxonMobil Baytown Area wanted to show their appreciation for the commitment and dedication the school’s faculty and staff have for their students by providing breakfast for Victoria Walker Elementary, San Jacinto Elementary, Robert E. Lee High School, Travis Elementary, Baytown Junior and Cedar Bayou Junior.

“Our teachers hold a great responsibility in educating the children of the community in which we operate and live. Supporting them in that important work is investing in our future,” said SSHE Manager and PIE Coordinator Rob Hill.

“The faculty and staff were so appreciative. But, honestly, I was humbled to be there with them that morning. The work they do educating our future is truly incredible.”

Additionally, ExxonMobil provided over 90 bags full of hygiene items and non-perishable foods from the local HEB to the Lee College Foundation to be distributed through their basic needs services program to students affected by the severe winter storm.

“It is so important to show our support for those providing an education to members of our community. The past year has been particularly difficult and these schools have shown their dedication and strength time and time again. The recent weather event was no different,” said Public and Government Affairs Advisor Connie Tilton. “We were thrilled to do something to say ‘thank you’ for everything they continue to do and to make sure they are able to continue to provide for their students as best they can.”

In the aftermath of the winter storm, ExxonMobil Baytown Area wanted to show their appreciation for the dedication of faculty and staff have for their students by providing breakfast for Victoria Walker Elementary, San Jacinto Elementary, Robert E. Lee High School, Travis Elementary, Baytown Junior and Cedar Bayou Junior. From left are VWE Counselor Barbi Witt, ExxonMobil’s Rob Hill, VWE Principal Monica Juarez, ExxonMobil’s Connie Tilton.
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James Bowie Elem.

James Bowie Elementary and Covestro are partners again for the 2020-21 school year. The partnership has greatly impacted student success and helped many families. Covestro has provided the campus in the following ways:
- Back to School Breakfast/Spirit Shirts: Covestro provided back to school grab and go breakfast for all of Bowie staff as well as back to school spirit shirts.
- Red Ribbon Week: Covestro provided masks for the entire school including all staff and students. They also provided STEM gifts for Red Ribbon Week poster contest winners.
- Wellness Wednesday: A first year program, Wellness Wednesday will help support teachers. Covestro has donated gifts to help incentivize teacher wellness participation.
- Coffee Bar: On a recent PLC day, Covestro provided a mobile coffee bar for teachers.

DeZavala Elem.

DeZavala Elementary and the Rotary Club of Baytown are longtime partners. Rotary has been committed to the education of Dolphins for many years. This year, Rotary has:
- Provided a Back-to-School luncheon for staff.
- Blessed four lucky teachers with $50 gift cards.
- Provided Red Ribbon Week trinkets which included bracelets for the pre-K and kindergarten students, headphones for 1st-3rd students and water bottles for 4th and 5th grade students.
- Provided candy bucket for staff the day before Halloween.
- Provided 20 $20 gift cards for families in need for Thanksgiving.
- Provided Angel Tree Program for families in need for Christmas.
- Provided for staff Christmas breakfast.

Harlem Elementary

Harlem Elementary is excited about the continued partnership with LCY Elastomers. LCY started out the year by purchasing a Chick-fil-A breakfast for every staff member on the first PLC day.

They have donated seven bicycles to be given away to students with the best attendance at the end of the year. Lastly, they have replenished the Harlem Mart with toys. The toys are given to students in exchange for their hard-earned play money.

Robert E. Lee

Robert E. Lee High School STEM Academy Engineering students participated for the sixth straight year of the National Manufacturing Day sponsored by Exxon Mobil. Students were able to interact virtually with several different ExxonMobil employees. They learned about the different sectors within the plant, the company’s history in Baytown and their processes to improve the local economy and environment. Ganders were very engaged and asked some challenging questions.

ExxonMobil was also able to donate funds to purchase the teachers Bluetooth headsets to assist with their virtual teaching assignments so the virtual students can receive the high-quality instruction that face-to-face students receive.

Ross S. Sterling

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital was honored to again support Ross S. Sterling High School.

Three members of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital serve on the Sterling High School Health Science Academy Advisory Committee. Members of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Cardiology, Cath Lab and Imaging departments joined forces with Sterling High School to collect food for the annual Thanksgiving food drive, providing food for over 16 families.

In an effort to encourage students to strive for good grades and attendance, Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital is supporting the “Ross is Boss” incentive program by providing prizes and treats.

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital “adopted” 15 families through Sterling - Angel Christmas Adoption program, which provided Christmas gifts for many of their neediest families.

Horace Mann Jr.

Horace Mann Junior and SNC Lavalin collaborated on Christmas Cards for Troops, which will be sent out over seas to the men and women who are serving our country. The card stock used was provided by SNC Lavalin.

For more on the Baytown Chamber of Commerce’s Partners in Education program, contact:
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More than 800 items of professional attire donated

In a time when women face the highest loss of jobs in U.S. history, Chevron Phillips Chemical and ExxonMobil made a large financial and clothing donation today to Dress for Success Houston (DFSH).

The suit drive benefiting DFSH was spearheaded by the two companies’ Baytown locations, where Heather Betancourth of Chevron Phillips Chemical and Halisha Balla of ExxonMobil serve as co-chairs for the Baytown Chapter of the Greater Houston Women’s Chamber of Commerce (GHWCC).

GHWCC has a long history of impacting the community with annual service events, and Balla and Betancourth chose DFSH as their holiday charity to support because both feel passionate about helping women succeed in the workplace.

“Having the right attire for a job interview is a competitive advantage often overlooked. But it really does go a long way in boosting a woman’s confidence in herself as well as shaping other people’s first impression of her so she can wow them with her skill sets,” said Betancourth.

In addition to the clothing donation, Chevron Phillips Chemical made a $10,000 contribution and ExxonMobil donated 100 professional resume portfolios to DFSH to honor the efforts of their employees who participated in the suit drive.

“At ExxonMobil, our hope and aspiration with this donation initiative is to not only equip women with the appropriate professional apparel so that they can walk with confidence into any job interview, but also feel more empowered to improve both their professional and personal lives,” said Balla.

DFSH believes “one woman, one suit, one job can change the world” and the efforts of Chevron Phillips Chemical and ExxonMobil contribute to that reality.

Since 1998, DFSH has provided business attire, a much-needed boost of confidence, and job retention and career advancement services to more than 45,000 women in the Houston community. An independent 501(c)(3) corporation registered in the state of Texas, DFSH is part of a worldwide network of 150 affiliates in 30 countries.
Educating the future – right here in Baytown and Mont Belvieu

ExxonMobil encourages the pursuit of math, science and technical careers through a variety of programs. While the presence of COVID-19 has changed the way we are able to provide support to students and increased virtual volunteering, it has not changed our commitment to education. Whether our employees are hosting virtual Book Worm Clubs, providing our support for the efforts of our local school districts, or speaking on panels with students at virtual job fairs, we work to ensure the students of today are ready for the careers of tomorrow.

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