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Del Mar Regents approve Master Plan for Southside Campus

Proposed facility will expand programs, keep pace with booming population

Today, the Del Mar College Board of Regents approved the Master Plan for developing a new campus on the Southside of Corpus Christi. Developing this Southside Master Plan for 96 acres the College already owns was approved and funded by College District taxpayers in 2014.

“Approval of this plan represents another bond promise the College has delivered on time and on budget,” said College President Mark Escamilla. “The Gensler design firm worked diligently with Regents, faculty, students and community members to develop a plan with capacity to meet educational needs for the next several decades.”

“This Master Plan is the starting point,” said Board Chairman Trey McCampbell. “It’s a roadmap that gives us direction forward.”

No budget estimates or timetable for building the campus were proposed as part of this project. This design phase focuses on planning the overall footprint for the site at the corner of Rodd Field Road and Yorktown Boulevard to facilitate maximizing the potential of the campus.

“This is an adaptable (master) plan that allows us to be efficient with tax dollars,” said Regent Carol Scott. “I think it is time and resources well spent.”

As proposed, the Southside Campus will expand capacity to offer signature programs in Architecture, Engineering, Biotechnology and Culinary Arts. The plan also encompasses facilities to teach basic core courses needed by transfer students, as well as developmental education, dual credit, workforce and continuing education programs.

Over 39 percent of Del Mar’s students currently live on the Southside, said Lenora Keas, Del Mar Interim Provost and Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, and a study by EMSI Inc. shows that the population in Southside zip codes is predicted to grow at an average rate of 3.61 percent per year through 2020.

“The demand for a Southside Campus is there like never before,” Keas said. “Growth in population equals growth in need for educational opportunities and job training.”

The Master Plan also includes physical fitness facilities and a community center. Located across the street from the city’s Bill Witt Park, the campus is positioned to be a community asset, as well as an educational campus with capacity to serve up to 20,000 students after three phases of development.

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