

TCISD INDUSTRIAL TRADES CENTER – “LIVING THE DREAM!”

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Have you ever awakened from a dream to find that it had become a reality? This may not seem possible, but the TCISD Industrial Trades Center is living proof that this can...and did happen!

On March 9 at 5:00 the official Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the \$8 million, 30,000-square-foot, Industrial Trade Center located at 1400 9th Avenue North, will take place and the future of industrial trades training will unfold. This dream of providing skilled trade training began years ago with forward thinking school board members and community leaders. Business and industry partners teamed up and have been outstanding in their support and assistance. Some were at the table as the project progressed from dreams, to pen & paper, to the ground breaking. Others have joined along the way.

The project has been exceedingly blessed by the efforts of members of the ITC Advisory Group who have taken the lead in finding ways to fund start-up costs as well as finding sources for ongoing operating costs. This group – led by Marathon’s own Rich Hernandez, GBR Plant Manager – meets monthly and has been an exceptional asset and inspiration.

“The TCISD Industrial Trades Center is the result of a forward looking, collaborative effort, to prepare local high school students with the craft skills needed to pursue careers with many local industrial sites and contractor companies” said Rich Hernandez, Marathon GBR General Manager and ITC Advisory Council Chairman. Hernandez stated, “We are blessed to live in an area with exciting job opportunities for craft workers with the right skill sets and the ITC will help its graduates start on the path to developing the skills needed to pursue their careers. The cooperation between TCISD, local businesses, trade unions and industry to develop the ITC has been outstanding and the ITC will greatly benefit our communities.”

Already community partners have pledged over \$750,000 toward start-up costs and equipment. An additional \$170,000 per year has been pledged from local partners for maintenance and operations through a pennies per man hour program. There will be further opportunities for partners to be actively involved in the success of our students that include, apprenticeships, job shadowing, and student sponsorships, just to name a few.

In the 2016-2017 school year, the center will have space for about 200 students, Lusignolo said. Offering huge, open spaces with two-story volume, the building has educational bays or shops for each of the six industrial trades being taught: welding, instrumentation and electrical, construction, machining, maritime and pipe fitting. Each shop is approximately 3,000 square feet and boasts additional utility connections to accommodate all of the necessary equipment. Each bay will have unique features built in providing unique teaching environments and practical demonstration applications for hands-on learning. Students will be able to hone in specific abilities required for the trade jobs they’re pursuing. In addition to the learning bays, the Industrial Trades Center will have a lobby that acts as a conference space for large presentations. Additionally, there are lunch rooms, lockers rooms and showers.

Dr. Cynthia Lusignolo, TCISD Superintendent stated, “Our goal in TCISD is to become the skilled craft training pipeline for Galveston County and the greater Gulf Coast areas. We are

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exceedingly thankful to be able to provide this level of training for our students”. Lusignolo goes on to say, “Our mission is to launch these students into high skill, high wage, high demand positions that will help secure a high quality of life for them and their families. We cannot say “thank you” enough to everyone who has made this dream a reality.”

Texas City La Marque Chamber of Commerce
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