

TCISD Industrial Trade Center – Integral to “Our” Success

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“Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success”  
– Henry Ford.

At A&A Machine & Fabrication LLC, we were super excited to learn about the Texas City Industrial Trades Center (ITC) program that started this fall and the ITC building opening in January 2017. This is going to be an amazing way to educate, motivate and train our youth toward these technical careers where they can enter the work field as “pre-trained” apprentices. We have all seen the decline of the “Vocational Technical” programs, which I remember so well from my high school days. This ITC news means the resurgence of a program that could teach and train students in a skilled trade in which they could then earn a living wage, and be successful citizens.

Under the leadership of Dr. Lusignolo, the TC School Board, Deborah Laine, Richard Chapa and many others, the vision was set forth to staff, create curriculum, procure equipment and construct a building to house the Industrial Trade Center. Henry Ford knew it took a team of people, and a strong will to drive the vision to completion. The TCISD team has that will !

Let me share with you why A&A feels the ITC is integral to “our” success and why we will support it with our time and money. And when I speak of “our” success, I mean the whole “communities” success.

We realize as current owners of a manufacturing company, *that we must feed the pipeline. We can only pull out, what we are willing to put in.* A&A established an Apprenticeship program early on in our company's history and we have worked with both the public schools and COM as we seek those motivated to learn the machining or welding trade as a craftsperson. We want to be able to pick those apprentice candidates and welding candidates from local young people. We have to get the word out to our LM and TC youth about the opportunities before them, especially in these technical vocation careers. We can only pull out what we are willing to put in.

A&A is very proud to support the TCISD Industrial Trade Center, and we strongly believe that we should take the attitude that this corporate support is both necessary and *expected at whatever level you can provide.* The ITC is integral to our success.

I'd like to exhort all local employers and our local plants in need of skilled craft labor, to get behind the ITC with your time and money. Together, we must support our local youth. Whether you are from LM or TC, we must invest in the education and career training of these young people from our two great cities.

To show A&A's commitment to the ITC Program, we have committed to OFFER the top candidate, either from welding or machining, an **entry apprentice job** at our plant in LaMarque. *Notice I said offer them a job.* I sincerely hope that the top candidates have 5 or 6 offers to choose from. Wouldn't that be amazing ?

Could you make a similar Commitment ? How can you help our local youth pursue their dreams ? Can you give of your time and money ?

We will only pull out what we are willing to put in. The ITC is integral to our success.