Celebrating Our Achievements
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

CHANGING LIVES,
CHANGING COMMUNITIES

South Texas College
About South Texas College

• South Texas College (STC) was created on September 1, 1993, by Texas Senate Bill 251 and House Bill 1102 to serve Hidalgo and Starr counties, which are located in deep south Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border region. It was the only community college in Texas to have been legislatively established because of the compelling need for a comprehensive community college to serve the almost 700,000 residents of the region, with over 95 percent being Hispanic and who previously did not have access to such an institution. In the fall of 1993, STC opened its doors to just over 1,000 students on the site of what had previously been the McAllen extension center for Texas State Technical College.

• Today, STC is a nationally recognized and award winning comprehensive college serving over 30,000 students with 2,103 faculty and staff across five full-service campuses, one virtual campus for online students and programs, and numerous dual enrollment partnering high schools. The five campuses are:
   - The Pecan Campus – Central McAllen
   - The Ramiro R. Casso Nursing and Allied Health Campus – McAllen’s Hospital District
   - The Technology Campus – South McAllen’s Industrial Park District
   - The Mid-Valley Campus – Weslaco
   - The Starr County Campus – Rio Grande City

• STC’s student population is predominantly Hispanic and first-generation students. Over 75 percent of the entire student population is the first in their family to attend college, and as many students are participating in need-based financial aid. The students of STC are “heroic” and rise to the challenge of high expectations established for them by STC. Their success can be seen in STC’s increasing number of graduates and university transfers.

• STC is the third fastest growing community college in the nation according to Community College Week, offering over 100 associate degree and certificate program options, and is the only community college in Texas to offer two baccalaureate degrees.

• STC is situated in the southernmost part of Texas just 60 miles west of South Padre Island and the Gulf of Mexico. The college is committed to providing affordable access to a quality higher education and improving the economic vitality, social mobility and overall quality of life of the people of South Texas.

• In 2008 South Texas College received the MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award for promoting educational and economic advancement. STC was one of only two institutions in the entire nation to receive the award.
A Message from the President:

Thank you for believing in STC

Bruce Barton said long ago, “Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe.” South Texas College continues to believe that education is the cornerstone to our economic vitality and the future of our young adults and striving families. That belief has resulted in some astounding achievements, and it is my sincere pleasure to celebrate them with you through this most outstandingly packed publication of accomplishments.

Of course, we could not have done it by ourselves. We have you, our school districts and university colleagues, and our economic development and community partners, to thank for it all. With your help and the help of so many others, South Texas College has seen a remarkably high return on its investment in education over the last seventeen years. Who could have predicted so much would be accomplished simply by believing in the power of our youth and our communities? And yet, our pursuit of academic and vocational excellence, and our collective belief in ourselves and our region, has resulted in such high levels of success and prosperity.

We want to thank each and every one of our public school leaders, community members, students, faculty, staff and administration for the monumental hard work that has gone into making this institution the premier, world-class institution it has become. We want to offer a special thanks to our Board of Trustees for providing us with the vision that has been realized in the lives of our students, and we thank them for believing in us so heartily and faithfully.

I am pleased to share with you this celebratory publication of STC’s highest achievements. And, after a quick review, I think you will conclude that we have indeed accomplished some remarkable things and have so much to celebrate. And to think… it all started with a simple decision on your part – you the faculty, staff and members of the community – to believe in South Texas College.

With warm regards,

Shirley A. Reed
The Vision, Purpose, Core Values, Guiding Principles, and Strategic Directions Constitute the Comprehensive Mission for South Texas College

**VISION**
A better quality of life for our communities.

**PURPOSE**
South Texas College is a world-class comprehensive institution of higher learning providing premier educational and workforce programs and services in response to the needs of the region.

**CORE VALUES**
- Student Success
- Learning
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Community
- Opportunity

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
- Be a premier learning-centered higher education institution where student and community success are paramount;
- Serve as the cornerstone for the economic vitality of South Texas;
- Foster an environment for the students and community to achieve a better quality of life;
- Nurture a culture where collaboration is valued and achievement is recognized.

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS**
- South Texas College commits to student learning as the foundation of student success through excellence in teaching and service, faculty and staff empowerment, professional development, and accountability.
- South Texas College proudly provides opportunities to all students with high expectations for their success.
- South Texas College leads the transformation of the region to a “college-going” culture whereby attending and completing higher education is expected for all.
- South Texas College serves as the catalyst for regional economic prosperity and social mobility.
- South Texas College models professionalism through integrity, mutual respect, civility, trust, and collaboration.
- South Texas College champions a culture of excellence based on evidence.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, September 13, 2007.
South Texas College

Pecan Campus
3201 W. Pecan Blvd.
McAllen, Texas

Technology Campus
3700 W. Military Hwy.
McAllen, Texas

Nursing & Allied Health Campus
1101 E. Vermont
McAllen, Texas

Mid-Valley Campus
400 N. Border
Weslaco, Texas

Starr County Campus
142 FM 3167
Rio Grande City, Texas
Strategic Direction One:

**STUDENT LEARNING**

South Texas College commits to student learning as the foundation of student success through excellence in teaching and service, faculty and staff empowerment, professional development and accountability.

- More than 100 associate degrees and certificates, and two applied baccalaureate degrees in technology management and computer information technologies are available.

- A wide variety of online degree programs are offered:
  - Business Administration
  - Criminal Justice
  - Education – Early Childhood
  - Education – Generalist
  - Education – Grades 8-12
  - Social Sciences – Sociology
  - Interdisciplinary Studies

- One of three community colleges in Texas accredited and authorized to offer an applied baccalaureate degree and an active member of the Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA)

- Nationally and regionally recognized faculty who innovate to facilitate student learning, lead regional initiatives and engage in state and national efforts to align curriculum from Pre-K through college graduation

- Innovative library environments which facilitate self-initiated and collaborative learning for 21st century students

- A robust array of student centered support services designed to facilitate student success both in and outside of the classroom with mentoring, leadership, and scholarship programs designed to support a wide variety of students

- Comprehensive professional development for faculty including Teaching and Learning Academy, Part-time Faculty Academy, Teaching Circles Academy, Chair Academy, and two full-days of Professional Development during each semester

- Nationally accredited and comprehensive academic support services at the Center for Learning Excellence (CLE) staffed with professionally trained and certified tutors at every campus
• Approximately 70% of the operating budget allocated for instructional programs, academic support, and student services

• State-of-the-art multimedia and audio/video technology installed in more than 90% of all classrooms at the college to support student learning and faculty innovation

• Students successfully passing their developmental studies classes increased by 6% from fall 2007 (61%) to fall 2009 (67%)

• Developmental English students increased their Texas Success Initiative completion rate by 13% in 2008-2009.

• Developmental Math students increased their Texas Success Initiative completion rate by 15% in 2008-2009

• Wireless access is available on all campuses to facilitate teaching and a boundary-free learning environment

• The First-Year Experience initiative for first time in college students enables first-year students to develop creative and critical thinking skills, information literacy, and the personal and social skills needed to facilitate a successful transition from high school to higher education
Strategic Direction Two:

ACCESSIBILITY & SUCCESS

South Texas College proudly provides opportunities to all students with high expectations for their success.

- Over 27,000 students enrolled in Fall 2009, an increase of 23% over the previous fall semester with Fall 2010 enrollment expected to exceed 30,000 students
- Lead the state in continually adapting to the ever increasing demand for affordable and equitable access to higher education and workforce training
- Repeatedly ranked as one of the top colleges in the nation for the number of graduates and degrees awarded
- In 2009, Community College Week ranked STC as compared to the nation’s 1200 community colleges:
  - # 3 in the nation in awarding associates degrees in all disciplines to Hispanic students.
  - # 6 in the nation in awarding associates degrees in Multi/Interdisciplinary studies
  - # 19 in the nation in awarding associates degrees in Criminal Justice
- Students routinely transfer to universities across the nation, including The University of Texas–Austin, Texas A&M, Stanford, and Yale among others
- Over 11,000 students who previously attended STC enrolled at The University of Texas – Pan American in Fall 2009
- The Nursing/Allied Health Campus utilizes high fidelity simulation in its Advanced Simulation Labs to expand the learning experience with computerized manikins that are anatomically precise to reproduce realistic physiologic responses to immerse students in scenarios that mimic real-life experiences in a clinical setting
- Over 4,300 students enrolled in online courses for Fall 2009 and expanded distance education opportunities to meet the growing demands of an increasingly digital, mobile community
- New District-wide College Campus Expansion Master Plan identifying facility requirements for the college’s continuing enrollment growth through the year 2020
- One hundred ninety eight (198) high school students earned their associate degrees in biology and/or engineering the same year they graduated from high school through STC’s two dual enrollment academies in Medical Science and Engineering.
- The Dual Enrollment Computer Science Academy is scheduled to begin in Fall 2010
• Continuing, Professional, and Workforce Education awarded 366 GED Certificates of Completion in the last 18 months

• Designated as an official GED Testing Site during Summer 2010

• Five hundred ninety five (595) students participated in the Valley Scholars Program which is available to the top 10% of high school graduates, and which promotes academic excellence by providing students with financial assistance, academic support services, mentoring, and leadership development

• 2+2 transfer articulation agreements are in place to assure the seamless transfer of credits between STC and UTPA and a faster time to degree attainment

• Dedication of the new Manuel Benavidez Jr. Rural Technology Center at the Starr County Campus and funded through a grant from the Texas Department of Rural Affairs

• Developed nine integrated career pathways from non-credit to credit programs for non-traditional adult students entering the workforce

• Ninety-one percent of Alternative Teacher Certification Program completers passed the state examinations and received teaching certificates
Strategic Direction Three:

COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

South Texas College leads the transformation of the region to a “college-going” culture whereby attending and completing higher education is expected for all.

• Partners with numerous area school districts to aggressively promote a “college-going” culture through dual enrollment courses and academies, dropout recovery programs, early college high schools, and college enrollment initiatives

• Dual Enrollment opportunities for over 8,500 high school students each year to begin college by taking college level courses tuition free while still in high school

• Partners with 400 elementary schools, 208 middle schools, and 52 high school sites to promote “college is for all Valley children”

• Partners with five school districts for the establishment of Early College High Schools:
  ▶ McAllen ISD
  ▶ Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD
  ▶ Progreso ISD
  ▶ Valley View ISD
  ▶ Mercedes ISD

• College Readiness presentations provided to over 300 area independent school district faculty and administrators regarding the college readiness requirements

• Active participant on the Upper Rio Grande Valley P-16 Council, South Texas Border P-16 Network, and a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board curriculum alignment initiatives

• Operation College Bound served 25 high schools during which college staff assisted the entire senior class in applying for college admissions and federal Pell grants

• National leader in providing access to affordable higher education to first generation students

• Two hundred and fifteen (215) students have graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Technology; 168 with a degree in Technology Management and 47 with a degree in Computer and Information Technologies
• Hosted fifth annual regional Summit on College Readiness to provide a forum for higher education, public schools, and business community to engage in dialogue on closing the achievement gap in college readiness for high school graduates

• Invited to join the Jobs for the Future Breaking Through initiative to develop innovative programs to help low-literacy adults prepare for and succeed in occupational and technical degree programs

• Since 2002, the percentage of Hidalgo and Starr County residents earning an Associate’s degree improved by 8%, while the percentage earning college hours improved by 10% (2010 Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI))

• The total population of Hidalgo and Starr Counties with some earned college credit is now 33% of the total population age 25 or older. (2010 Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI))
Strategic Direction Four:

REGIONAL PROSPERITY

South Texas College serves as the catalyst for regional economic prosperity and social mobility.

- Headquarters to the North American Advanced Manufacturing Research and Education Initiative (NAAMREI), a sixty-agency partnership throughout the border region of Texas funded by an $8 million grant to support advanced manufacturing workforce training and talent development activities in the Rio South Texas region that leveraged over $30 million to implement a comprehensive workforce development plan for this region.

- The NAAMREI talent development network has participated in the training of over 2,947 teachers in partnership with Region One Education Service Center.

- Institute for Advanced Manufacturing serves as the regional hub for the Rio South Texas Manufacturing College Alliance and is an affiliate of NAAMREI, which is a collaboration of four institutes in the Rio South Texas Region (South Texas College, Laredo Community College, Texas Southmost College, and Texas State Technical College) and which provides customized training for manufacturers, credentialing over 2,000 workers per year.

- Rated A+ by employers in total satisfaction with graduates in a recent 2009 employer survey

- Recipient of over $15.7 million in grant funding for education, workforce training and student service initiatives in 2009-2010

- Unemployment in Hidalgo County has dropped since the inception of STC from 24.1% in 1993 to 12.3% in 2010, and unemployment in Starr County dropped from 40.3% in 1993 to 17.6% in 2010

- A 2010 Economic Impact Study conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) reveals:
  - Graduates and alumni earn approximately $107.4 million per year in income above their previous earning potential because of their education and training from South Texas College
  - Students enjoy an attractive 15.4% real rate of return on their STC educational investment
  - Average annual exit earnings for an associate’s degree nursing graduate from STC is $45,000, 104% higher than the average earnings of a high school graduate in the region
  - Estimated 95% of STC students remain in Texas and contribute to its economic growth
  - Valley workforce educated by STC has led to an annual cost savings to taxpayers of $6.1 million previously spent on expenses related to welfare, unemployment, and crime for Texas and the Valley
  - Higher earnings of STC students and associated increases in state income expand the tax base in Texas by about $54.2 million each year
• Average graduate placement rate of 95% for eight straight years, which documents the number of students who are employed and/or who chose to continue their education.

• Over 2,700 degree and certificates awarded in 2010; creating a pathway to the middle class for graduates and their families.

• Seven hundred thirty four (734) degrees and certificates awarded in 2010 in eight (8) Associate degree and nine (9) Certificate programs in Nursing and Allied Health fields.

• McAllen College and Career Transition Initiative (McCCTI) program has aided 47 ninth grade, at-risk students from MISD in attaining a high school diploma while taking dual enrollment STC courses, 12 of which are now at STC, with 139 new students expected to start the program this fall.

• Leveraged over $1 million to provide dual enrollment courses for 3,282 high school students and 200 adults in the area of computer information technology and facilitated the attainment of information technology specific credentials for 52 high school teachers, 18 full-time college faculty, and 48 non-instructional employees.
Strategic Direction Five:

**MODEL PROFESSIONALISM**

South Texas College models professionalism through integrity, mutual respect, civility, trust, and collaboration.

- Accreditation reaffirmed for 10 more years by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, and certificates
- Premier faculty who are committed to academic excellence, integrity, and scholarship with academic rank based on education, years of service, teaching effectiveness, service to college, service to community, professional activities, and scholarly pursuit
- Proud recipient of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD): Excellence Award
- Comprehensive professional development for all staff including one full day per semester of professional development each semester, Cross-training Ambassador Academy, and Staff Academy
- Over 140 STC staff and faculty received training in personal accountability and customer service through the award-winning QBQ! training program
- Faculty and staff presented papers, research and served as keynote speakers at conferences, seminars, and workshops throughout the United States during 2009
- Leader College designation by Achieving The Dream as a model for serving Hispanic students with exceptional success

www.southtexascollege.edu
• Other special accreditations include:
  ▸ Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP): Accreditation
  ▸ Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education
  ▸ Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas
  ▸ Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education
  ▸ American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
  ▸ National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence
  ▸ Texas Department of Aging and Disability (accredits Patient Care Assisting)
  ▸ Texas Department of State Health Services (accredits Emergency Medical Technology)
  ▸ Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (accredits Health Information Technology)
  ▸ Respiratory Therapy “candidate” (Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care)
  ▸ National Institute for Metalworking Skills, Inc. (NIMS): Certification
  ▸ National Association for Developmental Education (NADE): Certification

• Child Care Development Center on the Mid Valley Campus is only one of two south of San Antonio to be accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs
Strategic Direction Six:

**CHAMPION EXCELLENCE**

South Texas College Champions a culture of excellence based on evidence.

- One of the top student persistence rates in the Texas community colleges at 64.7% of new students re-enrolling the following year as compared to the average of 60% at other large Texas community colleges and an average 57% statewide

- MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award in 2008 for promoting educational and economic advancement as a premier institution among the nation’s 1,200 community colleges

- Hispanic Outlook’s Top 100 List repeatedly ranks South Texas College as third in the nation for enrolling the most Hispanics among the nation’s colleges and universities

- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board STAR award for the College and Career Transitions Academy in partnership with the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the last seven consecutive years

- Certificate of Distinction awarded by the Government Treasurers’ Organization of Texas (GTOT) for the College’s investment policy

- Recipient of Community College Business Officers Exemplary Practices Award for innovation initiatives in Human Resources

- An unqualified opinion, which is the best and highest opinion, issued by the external auditors, Long Chilton, LLP, for all its Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports since the creation of the college in 1993

- One of only 21 colleges across the nation to serve as a mentoring “Leader College” in the national Achieving the Dream initiative funded by the Lumina Foundation and designed to significantly improve student success in college for minority students

- Two of STC’s Library Art Gallery Program exhibits were selected to the top five art exhibits in the Rio Grande Valley for 2008 by the editors of Festiva magazine

- Beta Epsilon Mu Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society is one of only 30 chapters to be recognized from over 1,200 chapters resulting in numerous regional and international awards including: Five Star Program Award, Regional Milestone Awards, Service and Leadership Hallmark Awards
• New and emerging technologies for security and safety to protect its students, faculty, staff and visitors at all five campuses

• National Pacesetter Award by the National Council for Public Relations and Marketing which recognized STC’s leadership for creative and innovative marketing and public relations

• The “Changing Lives, Changing Communities” commercial campaign received numerous regional and national awards for its use of unique cutting-edge technological advancements to illuminate the college-going culture and path to college messages for its Rio Grande Valley audience

• Numerous Paragon Awards earned by the college’s Office of Public Relations and Marketing Relations recognize outstanding achievement in communications at community and technical colleges from across the nation which is the only national competition of its kind honoring excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year colleges

• The PR and Marketing staff keep the region’s college-going message at the forefront through its distinctive social marketing programs like JagTV. The highly-talented team of professionals brings unique experiences and ideas to create truly innovative ways to communicate with the regional public, as evidenced through JagTV being named the best community college news magazine in the country

• Institutional Effectiveness processes praised by a formal review team sent from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the college’s accrediting agency, during its ten year reaffirmation review

• A team of researchers, evaluators and reporting specialists (called RRAPT), continue to aggressively embed a culture of excellence throughout the College by promoting strong decision-making and planning processes based on the use of findings from research studies, assessment and evaluation processes, and providing readily available data and information to support these processes
• Developed 30 new in house application and systems development projects including, SharePoint, Dashboard, Go Green, Lab Trax, and Jagnet modifications to comply with Texas Legislation House Bills and to provide automated and cost effective solutions

• Conducted a research study for the Texas Association of Community Colleges to study dual enrollment programs at the state’s 50 community college districts and found that overall the dual enrollment program is of strong quality and in high demand across the State

• Partners with several school districts, including PSJA, Donna and La Joya to provide High School Recovery Programs focused at dropout prevention for students up to the age of 25 providing students with strategies towards College Readiness and the opportunity to earn high school credits leading to a high school diploma, and college credits towards a degree or certificate

• Special Recognition for efforts to promote College Readiness by the Lea Meyer Austin Institutional Student Success Leadership Award Committee

• Participant in four national valuation studies by Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) and National Center for Postsecondary Research (NCPR) on the Beacon Mentoring program, Achieving the Dream Cost Study, Male Ethnographic Study, and Math Summer Bridge

• Recognized by the International Economic Development Council’s (IEDC) Excellence in Economic Development award to McAllen Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) for the NAAMREI partnership contributions

• Standard and Poor’s Rating Services raised the College’s rating to AA- with a stable outlook from A+/Stable for the Limited Tax General Obligation bonds, a one-notch upgrade

• Moody’s Investor Service recalibrated the ratings for the College’s Limited Tax General Obligation bonds and following the recalibration changed the ratings from A1 to Aa2, a two-notch upgrade