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TSTC and Red Oak ISD Bring Technical Education to All Districts

(Dallas/Red Oak/Marshall) The Red Oak ISD Board of Trustees unanimously voted on Nov. 18 to approve the deeding of 29.5 acres of land to Texas State Technical College to construct an extensive technical education campus. The initial phase of construction includes a \$10 million technical education facility with future growth and expansion in the years to come. Located just behind Red Oak High School, the facility is set to break ground in early 2014, offering career training to all school districts in the region.

On Oct. 16, The TSTC Foundation agreed to fund the construction of TSTC North Texas on the property deeded from Red Oak ISD in Ellis County and enter into a lease arrangement with TSTC. The \$10 million, 90,000 sq. ft. facility is set for completion prior to the 2014 school year.

"This is a sign of success," said TSTC Chancellor Michael L. Reeser, "the success of Red Oak ISD and TSTC joining together to ensure the future success of students and workforce training in the North Texas region. It all began with the vision of the citizens of Ellis County and concluded with successful legislative work by Rep. Jim Pitts and Sen. Brian Birdwell."

As part of the partnership, Red Oak High School students in grades 9 - 12 will receive 50 percent discount on all TSTC tuition as well as discounted fees at TSTC North Texas.

"This is an exciting time for students in Ellis County. The establishment of a branch of TSTC in Red Oak will create many opportunities for students of all ages," said Red Oak Superintendent Dr. Scott Niven. "The visionary leadership of the Red Oak ISD School Board has contributed greatly to making this a reality. TSTC North Texas will benefit generations to come."

Beginning Jan. 15, TSTC will begin preparing students from area school districts for technical careers at Red Oak ISD's Career and Technical Education building. "We are ramping up by hiring faculty and administration to prepare students for careers in computer systems and network administration, computer systems desktop support, computer systems cyber security, and computer aided drafting," said Jim Rowland, Colonel (ret.), USAF, TSTC North Texas Provost. TSTC anticipates up to 80% of the new jobs created at TSTC North Texas will draw from talent in the local area.

By summer, additional training will prepare students for careers in HVAC, logistics, and allied health.

When the new building is occupied in Fall 2014, both high school students and all others who are looking to advance their career opportunities after high school graduation can enroll. At that time, students may also choose from career training in industrial maintenance, diesel, welding, manufacturing, applied engineering, high voltage electrical, and process operations among others. For more information, or to register for admission, go to www.tstc.edu/red_oak or call 972.617.4723.

History of ROISD and TSTC Partnership The citizens of Ellis County exercised foresight by seeing the future workforce landscape requiring some type of post-secondary technical education of two years or less. In the early part of 2013, State Rep. Jim Pitts, TSTC Chancellor Michael L. Reeser began conversations with Red Oak ISD Superintendent Dr. Scott Niven. Shortly thereafter, a cohort of Ellis County superintendents drafted a letter in support of bringing a branch of TSTC to the area.

Forging the way for that reality, Rep. Jim Pitts introduced a bill (HB 3640) sponsored by Sen. Brian Birdwell in the Senate, authorizing the creation of a TSTC extension center in Ellis County. In Fall 2013, TSTC North Texas, and extension of TSTC Marshall, opened for Red Oak ISD dual-credit students in an existing Red Oak ISD facility. Classes for students from other school districts are set to begin Jan. 2014 in the Red Oak ISD Career and Technical Education building.

About TSTC - Texas State Technical College (www.tstc.edu) consists of four technical colleges with campuses in Abilene, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Harlingen, Hutto, Ingleside, Marshall, Red Oak, Richmond, Sweetwater, and Waco. TSTC is the only college in America to adopt a funding model based entirely on student employment outcomes - aligning with its purpose of strengthening Texas with a highly skilled, technically competent workforce.

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