Texas A&M and El Centro College launch innovative co-enrollment program for students to pursue engineering degrees

Texas A&M University today announced the formation of the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy at El Centro College, an innovative co-enrollment partnership developed to address the state's growing need for engineers. Qualified students will be admitted to the Texas A&M Dwight Look College of Engineering, complete the first two years of coursework at selected two-year colleges and finish their engineering degrees in College Station, Texas.

The Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academies will allow students to remain close to home for their first two years while pursuing one of 16 majors within the college of engineering at Texas A&M. This program is being generously supported by Chevron.

“Texas has a significant need for more engineers and has an abundance of capable students. This new academy program provides a unique pathway toward earning a bachelor’s degree in engineering by completing the first two years of coursework at a two-year college as a Texas A&M engineering student,” said John Sharp, chancellor of The Texas A&M University System.

A 2012 report by the President’s Advisory Council on Science and Technology projected that 1 million more STEM degrees would be needed in the next decade. In Texas alone, the projected need for engineers in the workforce is 62,000 by 2022. To meet this need, universities and two-year colleges will need to work together to bridge the gap and attract and retain students who are interested in STEM fields.

“Chevron is committed to increasing access to, and the quality of, education around the world,” said Steve Green, Chevron vice president of public and government affairs. “We are proud to partner with Texas A&M on this important initiative to help ensure an educated and skilled workforce.”

Chevron has donated $5 million to support the Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy at El Centro College; as well as three other academies at Houston Community College, Spring Branch in Houston; Texas Southmost College in Brownsville; and Alamo Colleges in San Antonio.

“Chevron is excited to be able to continue our longstanding relationship with Texas A&M through support of the Engineering Academy initiative, which will help provide opportunities in the field of engineering for many underrepresented and first generation college students,” said
Shariq Yosufzai, Chevron vice president of ombuds, diversity & inclusion and university & association relations. “Partnering with Texas A&M, a top source of engineering hires for Chevron, to help provide opportunities in the field of engineering will support our efforts to help build the diverse workforce of tomorrow that will be required to meet the energy needs of the future.”

“The Texas A&M-Chevron Engineering Academy at El Centro College supports ECC’s renewed focus on STEM education, and it provides for a pathway or bridge from the associate to the bachelor’s degree in a much needed field,” said Dr. José Adames, college president, El Centro College. “The agreement is in line with ECC’s STEM grant and other initiatives that encourage more women and under-represented populations in technical fields to consider becoming engineers.”

Texas A&M Engineering Vice Chancellor and Dean M. Katherine Banks said the academies have the potential to reach beyond the typical pathways for access to a top-ranked engineering program.

“We are excited about this program because our goal is to attract the very best students to Texas A&M Engineering, even if circumstances require them to stay close to home for the first two years of college,” said Banks. “This is not a traditional transfer program. The Academy students are enrolled in the engineering college at Texas A&M from day one. We are committed to supporting these students throughout their academic program, which will result in a degree from one of the premier engineering colleges in the nation.”

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This program was made possible through the generosity of Chevron.

For additional information and event photos, see our online media kit at u.tamu.edu/MediaKit