



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 12, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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GUILLEN HELPS EXPAND SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

Starr County Campus Of South Texas College To Get New Energy Institute

AUSTIN - As a strong supporter of increasing access to higher education and vocational job training programs for South Texans, Representative Ryan Guillen (D - Rural South Texas) is pleased that his efforts to increase funding at South Texas College (STC) have resulted in a new addition to the Starr County campus that will house an energy institute.

"The oil, gas, and renewable energy industries are tremendously valuable to South Texas," said Guillen. "These industries provide good jobs to so many South Texas families, and this institute will train the next generation of oil, gas, and renewable energy workers. I am excited for the many opportunities this new Starr County campus will bring."

STC will be adding 125,000 square feet to the Starr county campus for an energy institute that will train students to build, operate, and maintain oil, gas, and renewable energy infrastructure. Since the opening of STC, Starr County has seen an increase in the number of people pursuing a degree or vocational training and a reduction in the unemployment rate as these community members are able to find good jobs.

Guillen has been a strong advocate for education and the opportunities it creates for the people in South Texas. Since he has been in office, he has worked hard to increase STC's budget. In recent years, STC's state funding grew by \$20 million to its current total of over \$80 million. Guillen also continually works to improve vocational and workforce training programs, such as the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which brought a total of \$156 million to the district for workforce training. Guillen's efforts to increase educational and workforce opportunities have been successful. Since 2003, Starr County's unemployment rate has decreased from 21.5% to 8%, and average yearly wages have gone up by 8%.

"Higher education improves the livelihood of people in our communities in a way that nothing else can," said Representative Guillen. "That is why we've worked hard to make sure that the people of South Texas have access to higher education and workforce training opportunities."

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few other legislators have passed more bills than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen



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