



Memorial Classroom Building Renovation and Funding • Some History

—FACTSHEET—

Inscription on Facility Façade:

“The benefits of education are essential to the preservation of a free government.”

Sam Houston

Renovation Overview

In 2014, Del Mar College District voters approved a \$157 million bond referendum to fund capital improvements on the Heritage and Windward campuses. Those projects included the renovation of the Memorial Classroom Building, which is located on the corner of the Heritage Campus at Baldwin Blvd. and Ayers St.

- **Total capital improvement cost:** \$17,776,059
- **Square footage:** 29,724 SF (first and second floors total); 130,240 SF for building and associated improvements, including 114 additional parking spaces
- **Architectural Firm:** Gignac Architects
- **Contractor:** SpawGlass
- **Repurposed for Administrative Use:** No longer a classroom building, Memorial Classroom Building now houses the Del Mar College President/Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Leadership Team, General Counsel, Human Resources, Business, Payroll, Risk Management, Communication and Marketing, Student Affairs, Physical Facilities and other support spaces.

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Some History

Thousands of students have walked the halls of Memorial Classroom Building on Del Mar College's Heritage Campus since the facility's doors opened in 1942. First known as the Administration Building, the facility was the first permanent footprint of what was first known as the East Campus until the name changed in 2021 as part of a rebranding initiative. The college's administration has moved back to the modernized building throughout January and February.

Originally known as Corpus Christi Junior College—the first junior college in the Coastal Bend region—Corpus Christi Independent School District (CCISD) leaders steered the initiative and city voters approved a proposition to establish the college on July 30, 1935.

The institution's name changed to Del Mar College in 1948 as part of a naming contest with "Del Mar" meaning "Of the Sea" in Spanish. And in 1951, the college formed its own taxing district and became legally independent from CCISD after the first Board of Regents was elected in October of that same year.

First housed for seven years before a permanent structure was opened, including school district facilities—Corpus Christi High School (now Roy Miller High School) and Corpus Christi Junior High School—and a church, CCISD Board members acquired the corner lot at Baldwin Boulevard and Ayers Street and broke ground in 1941 to construct the official "college campus." The single Administration Building, renamed Memorial Classroom Building in 1972, provided space for administrators and programs that prepared students for the workforce needed during that era.

Corpus Christi Junior College's enrollment in fall 1942 was 340 students, including 225 Day School and 115 Night School students.

Fast-forward to today ... Del Mar College now serves over 20,000 students taking academic, Dual Enrollment, Continuing Education or Corporate Services program offerings on one of three campuses (Heritage, Windward and Oso Creek), at the Center for Economic Development, on-site at partnering primary school locations or online.

As the original college and a landmark in Corpus Christi, Thursday's celebration includes the unveiling of a Texas State Historical Marker from the Texas Historical Commission that notates Del Mar College's legacy and milestones over the past 90 years.