



**Del Mar College
Texas State Historical Marker
from the Texas Historical Commission**

—FACTSHEET—

As part of Del Mar College's Jan. 21, 2025, kickoff for yearlong observances celebrating its 90th Anniversary, DMC officials will unveil and dedicate a permanently installed Texas State Historical Marker from the Texas Historical Commission that recognizes the institution as "a centerpiece of higher education in the Coastal Bend region."

Located in front of Memorial Classroom Building on the Heritage Campus facing Baldwin Boulevard, the marker unveiling is part of the grand opening of the newly renovated facility that served as the first permanent footprint and original college campus beginning in 1942 after the institution's establishment in July 1935.

Facts about the initialization and process to receive the Texas State Historical Marker for Del Mar College include:

- **Project Initialization (2017):** DMC History Professor with the Department of Social Sciences, Dr. Mark Robbins taught an Academic Cooperative class that enabled students to develop a detailed project that focused on their specific interests in history.
- **Historical Marker Option:** As a member of the Nueces County Historical Commission (NCHC), Dr. Robbins offered students the opportunity to collaborate with the commission on an application to the Texas Historical Commission for a Texas State Historical Marker for a local site of significance.
- **Student Involvement:** Two Academic Cooperative students, Troy Nessner and Preston Martin, chose to pursue a Texas State Historical Marker for Del Mar College and conducted extensive historical research to support the application not only during but beyond the semesterlong class project.
- **Primary Source Research:** Nessner and Martin analyzed primary sources such as back issues of *The Foghorn* student newspaper (now called *Foghorn News*), along with oral histories previously collected from key individuals who shaped the college's legacy.

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- **Research Narrative:** The two students developed a thorough research narrative, highlighting significant themes and events that define Del Mar College's notable history.
- **NCHC Collaboration:** The Nueces County Historical Commission supported the students' project and helped guide their application through the Texas Historical Commission's approval process. Visit the THC site for details about their Historical Marker Program:
<https://thc.texas.gov/preserve/preservation-programs/historical-markers>
- **Texas Historical Commission Approval:** The marker application was submitted to and approved by the Texas Historical Commission after their review of the historical research.
- **Inscription Draft, Revisions and Final Approval:** The THC drafted the marker inscription and then shared the text with Del Mar College representatives and the NCHC for feedback. After suggested minor revisions were made, the THC finalized and approved the text for the marker.
- **Marker Production, Storage and Installation:** The THC had the marker produced by a foundry and shipped to Del Mar College in 2019. At that time, the college elected to postpone installment of the marker in front of Memorial Classroom Building in anticipation of the multi-million-dollar renovation of that facility as part of the \$157 million capital improvements program approved by Del Mar College District taxpayers who voted for the 2014 bond referendum.

Del Mar College Texas State Historical Marker Inscription:

Now a centerpiece of higher education in the Coastal Bend region, Del Mar College was established on July 30, 1935, when the people of Corpus Christi voted for a proposition to open a junior college. Classes for Corpus Christi Junior College began in the fall semester of 1935. With 154 initial students, the college offered coursework in business, education, mathematics, social sciences and more. The name was changed to Del Mar College in 1948. Over the years, additional courses were added which attracted a wide variety of students. With this increase in enrollment, Del Mar moved to its East Campus location on Baldwin and Ayers in 1942 and opened a West Campus in 1958. Two years prior to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, in response to challenges from local African American high school graduates and the NAACP, the Del Mar College Board of Regents voted unanimously to integrate. The college also acted as the location for meetings and speeches amidst the Chicano movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including with the founding of the Del Mar College Mexican American Student Organization (MASO) in 1969.

With the passage of the G.I. Bill in 1944 and close proximity to the Naval Air Station, veterans were always an important part of the college. The school offered athletics, including football, basketball and tennis. Despite numerous awards and championships, the athletics program ended in the 1960s and is now focused on intramural sports. The college also played a strong role in establishing the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra and the Texas Jazz Festival. With its educational and community-driven legacy, Del Mar College remains a significant contributor to the quality of life in Corpus Christi and South Texas.

(2019)

Marker is property of the State of Texas