



**Del Mar College Workforce Development Center–Aransas County
2000 Hwy. 35 N., Rockport, TX 78382**

—FACTSHEET—

- Del Mar College owns half of the property located on Highway 35 North in Rockport, Texas, formerly known as Little Bay Primary School.
- A \$2.5 million-plus project includes renovation of the interior of the 16,000-square-foot facility now called the Del Mar College Workforce Development Center–Aransas County, which is anticipated to open in fall 2025. Interior design work has already been completed by Turner I Ramirez Architects.
- Facility renovation will begin after the Jan. 30 “Workforce Rising: The Future of Workforce Training in Aransas County” kickoff event, which will signify a new beginning for residents living in Aransas County and surrounding communities through workforce training and higher education provided by the College.
- The Center is a game changer for Aransas County and will support training for sustainable jobs that diversify the county’s economy, enable residents to achieve higher wages and enhance employment opportunities in the area..
- Once operational, the Center will provide ongoing training and college-level courses for approximately 400 to 800 students per year.
- Classes and training will be available to everyone – young adults seeking a career, adults who want to up-skill and re-skill for essential jobs and those who simply want to re-enter the workforce.
- Over the years, DMC has already partnered through its Dual Enrollment program with Rockport-Fulton Independent School District. The Center will provide students access to more courses and programs, along with technology and hands-on training equipment, to prepare them for the regional workforce and economy, and academic coursework will also provide students the opportunity to complete programs at Del Mar College or transfer credits to area universities.
- DMC will offer courses not only through its academic programs but also by Continuing Education and Corporate Services, providing residents the opportunity to earn Marketable Skills Awards that can articulate into academic credits leading to Level I and II Certificates, Associate in Arts and Associate in Applied Science degrees and even toward the pursuit of DMC bachelor’s degrees—the Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Management and Leadership and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

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- The Center will include classrooms, labs and additional space to house high-demand marketable skills training that builds a sustainable workforce in the Aransas County area.
- Strategic training targets occupations identified by the Texas Workforce Commission and Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend that meet Aransas County's local and regional needs, including:
 - Health Sciences
 - Public Safety/Fire/EMS
 - Building/Construction Trades
 - Light Industrial/Manufacturing
 - Small Business & Entrepreneurship
 - Computer-Aided Design/Drafting
 - Communications & Broadcasting
 - General Education, Continuing Education and certification programs
- Initial funding for the Center came from a \$1.7 million U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant that was awarded to Aransas County in early 2021.
- Del Mar College, Aransas County and the Aransas County Partnership Workforce Development Corporation then began collaborating to bring workforce training and other educational opportunities to Aransas County and surrounding community residents; and in summer 2024, DMC received ownership of the Center from Aransas County.
- Additional funding through fundraising by local Rockport business leaders through the Del Mar College Foundation currently amounts to over \$440,000. Private donations have come from ACE Hardware, AEP Foundation, Blanton Builders, Charles Moreau, Coastal Bend Waste, Del Mar College Foundation, Aransas County Independent School District, Aransas County ISD Education Foundation, Aransas County, Bob and Harriet Parker, Capital Leasing, Charlie and Carla Belaire, City of Rockport, Jatin and Jatel Bhakta, John and Debbie Jackson, Karen Mella Realtors, Kim and Paul Foutz, Margaret Sue Rust Foundation, Nystrom Family Foundation, Redfish Lodge Partners LLC, Richard and Joy Dias and Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Foundation.
- The Del Mar College Foundation will offer scholarships once the center opens, and donations toward supporting scholarship funds and renovation work are currently being accepted. To inquire, contact the DMC Office of Development at 361-698-1317 or foundation@delmar.edu.