

College of the Mainland®

Horizons

FALL 2022

Magazine

EXPERIENCE
THE TRANSFORMATION



SPRING 2023 REGISTRATION
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A SEASON OF TRANSFORMATION

THE NEW COM EXPERIENCE

When I think of the COM experience, many things come to mind. It is an experience of deep impact where students discover their unique strengths and talents inside our classrooms and beyond. It is an experience that breaks down barriers — that changes lives and creates limitless opportunities. It is also an experience of exponential growth and profound transformation as our students enter to learn and leave ready to serve and make the world around them a better place.

While the COM experience is a varied one, I think we all would agree that it centers around the unwavering spirit of the people surrounding us every day. In this issue of *Horizons Magazine*, we highlight those people and share the stories that shape the core of who we are. From visionary college leaders driving students to achieve their dreams to innovative programs and dynamic facilities advancing educational excellence for the next generation of learners, we are truly transforming lives, one student at a time.

Many of the students who I talk to mention the pride that resonates when they share that they are a COM student. That pride is boundless, and I see it ignited across our community as the very landscape of the COM learning experience has soared to new heights in recent years. Whether a student is looking to transfer to a university, attain a baccalaureate-level degree or prepare

for a new career or trade, our college continues to evolve to meet the growing needs of our students and community.

For students like Devyn Cook, who is a Santa Fe High School graduate pursuing nursing with all tuition and fees covered through our Opening Doors Promise Scholarship, and Jose Lopez, who recently completed our English as a Second Language and High School Equivalency programs, the COM experience has proven to be a transformative one. Here, a fresh start is possible with our carefully crafted network of learning pipelines that help students focus on a meaningful path best suited for their individual goals.

The COM
experience that
we may have
once known is
changing right
before our
very eyes.

The COM experience that we may have once known is changing right before our very eyes as we evolve to keep pace with current learning standards, the progressing needs of our community members and local economy and the dynamic growth of the region. We have new leaders, new buildings and new programs. We have

transformation. And while that transformation is bold, we're only getting started.

But that's enough about us. Because above all else, what shapes the core of the COM experience is YOU. Your successes, your experiences, your journey and your transformation — your story is what truly makes us remarkably COM. And that story is just waiting to be told.

Read on to explore the COM experience, and who knows — your story may be next!

Sincerely,



Dr. Warren Nichols
President, College of the Mainland

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College of the Mainland is a learning-centered, comprehensive community college dedicated to student success and the intellectual and economic prosperity of the diverse communities we serve.

The college district includes Texas City, Dickinson, Hitchcock, La Marque, and Santa Fe. The service area includes League City, Friendswood, Kemah, Bacliff and San Leon.

Nurturing a strong sense of community shapes the heart of the COM experience, and perhaps nowhere is that more evident than in Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer's world.

A FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE:

DR. HELEN CASTELLANOS BREWER WORKS TO RESHAPE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



As the new vice president for student services at College of the Mainland, Brewer is passionate about providing an exceptional student experience. She works diligently to advocate on behalf of students – whether that’s addressing equity issues or changing students’ perspective of higher education – to ensure that every student is equipped with the necessary resources and support to navigate their unique road to success.

And for many community college students, that road can be paved with unexpected challenges along the way, all too often making it difficult for them to achieve their educational goals.

That’s where Dr. Brewer steps in.

“My job is to make sure I am helping to address outcomes in terms of graduation and retention,” Brewer said. “It’s vital to help students accomplish their goals, and if we don’t do that, then I’m not doing my job.”

While those are sound words from a seasoned leader with many years of higher education experience under her belt, Brewer’s own story did not come without its share of twists and turns along the way.



Brewer's journey began after her parents immigrated to the United States from Guatemala in the 1970s. Proud of her humble beginnings, she was raised in Maryland with two younger siblings whom she also helped rear. Serving as a translator for her Spanish-speaking parents, she quickly grew to find strength in learning to bridge the gap between her two worlds.

"Sometimes people feel sorry for you when you're in those roles, but I find they help you develop the strength to persevere through very challenging times," she said.

Attending an all-girls Catholic school as a teenager proved to be quite the transformative experience when she found herself immersed in

a school community where her higher education aspirations were nurtured in a deep and meaningful way.

Though the experience was impactful, the transition to college did not come easy for her as a child of immigrants and first-generation college student. So, she set off to find the path that was right for her.

"At 17 years old, I was trying to see how to go to college and how we are going to pay for it," Brewer explained.

That's when she decided to attend community college. And she'll tell you that the experience did not come without its own set of challenges.

"As a first-generation college student who was working to pay for college, you don't feel as though you're in an environment that's familiar, and you don't realize that there is a support system in place," she said.

But after transferring to the University of Maryland to earn her bachelor's degree, she was inspired to start the first Latina sorority in the state – a bold step to provide a safe, inclusive space so that students like her could feel pride in their culture and be in community with each other.

That experience was one of many that helped shape her into the leader she is today. After going on to complete her postgraduate studies, her innate sense of awareness soon gained clarity. And it is through this lens that allows her to be more culturally conscious and better connect with the unique needs of COM students.



"I understand that many of our students live in two different worlds – one where their family may not understand the importance of being a first-generation college student and another that expects them to have background information that maybe their family cannot provide for them," she said.

This ability to "see the gaps" is a skill that she honed throughout the years. Ultimately, she embraced that skill because she personally understands education's profound and widespread impact.

"It changed my social and socioeconomic trajectory – not only for me, but for my family," Brewer said. "I wanted to work in higher education to make changes for other people and their families."

And those changes are abundant.

At COM, she strives to improve student support systems in a more intentional way to address challenges that affect minority students. She is currently studying this through the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship, a highly selective leadership program preparing the next generation of community college presidents to transform institutions to achieve higher and more equitable levels of student success.

The opportunity allows her to bring new insight to College of the Mainland.

"My goal is to look at a broader picture of how all the services connect to one another and making sure we are aligning what we do here with high-impact practices happening nationally," Brewer said.

It's through her innovative and holistic approach to higher learning that those changes are evident. From improving access to virtual student services to creating a more personalized approach for new students with enrollment coaches, Brewer leads with a sharp focus on embracing the strength of the COM community to foster an engaging and personalized student experience.

"The more you get the community involved in making changes, the more likely students are to be successful," she said.

From alleviating financial barriers to helping students navigate their higher education journey as a first-generation college student, Brewer's role as the vice president for student services is a personal one for her – one where her own story comes full circle.



Reflecting back on her journey, she has a message for students who may be considering higher education but are nervous to explore what that road may entail.

"Education, regardless of where you are socioeconomically, is one thing that people can never take away from you. And it is unequivocally the most life-changing pursuit that you can ever partake in. It's a time for exploring who you are. If you just don't quit and if you just keep going, the reward will outweigh all of the sacrifices that you need to make - not only for yourself but for your family too."

Listen to a message
from Dr. Brewer.



The work of Student Services never stops. From onboarding new students into their first taste of college life to connecting them with resources to help them reach their goals, this group of special people lay an important foundation for the COM student experience.

Kayla Molnar is one such person.

At Your Service

Kayla Molnar Helps Students Spread their Wings at COM

Since joining College of the Mainland last year, Molnar has thoroughly enjoyed helping students navigate the process of getting started at college.

“I love the culture. I love the community. I love the people that I work with, and I love the students that I serve,” she said.

For Molnar, this passion for COM exudes in her work where she helps students shape their educational goals along their new journey. She administers career assessments, helps students navigate financial aid, assists with the college application process and shares various career resources — all in the hopes of empowering students to make informed academic decisions that will lead them toward a rewarding future.

“If you’re thinking about college, come talk to us because we want to make sure you’re making a well-informed decision about what you’re going to enter into,” she said.

As a new member of the COM family, Molnar enjoys exploring her community and connecting with new and prospective students. And those students run the gamut.

From high school students looking for an early college start to adult learners wanting to make a career change or diversify their skill set, she enjoys helping tailor the COM experience to each student’s individual needs.

It was during her studies at Baylor University where she learned the impact that meaningful connections can have on transforming a student’s higher educational experience. While she graduated with her bachelor’s degree in education, she started out as a medical humanities major because she had always been told she would make a great doctor. But after digging a little deeper, she realized she had a different calling.

“When I realized it wasn’t necessarily for me, I went to see a career specialist because I wanted to explore other options,” she recalled.

As a first-generation college student, Molnar felt apprehensive about that meeting. “I was nervous to show her that I didn’t know what I was doing,” she explained.

But after taking a career assessment, her counselor took the time to review the results with her. This conversation helped her find a

career and major that best fit her interests.

“The more that we know about ourselves, the more we can advocate for ourselves and pursue things we are interested in,” she said.

After defining her pathway, Molnar realized she most enjoyed being able to connect with students to figure out where their interests and passions lie. Therefore, joining the Student Services team was a natural fit for her.

“We understand that personal connection is a deep one,” she said. “Having students visit us to make sure they’re successful is something we’re hoping to achieve here.”

At COM, where more than 60% of students are first-generation college students, Molnar is able to personally relate to the students she serves.

“Maybe students face an obstacle that you yourself faced or maybe it’s not the same challenge, but it’s something you can still empathize with,” she said.

It is through these meaningful connections that Molnar believes College of the Mainland is a special place where students can really feel at home.

“It is such a caring community,” she said. “Our small classes allow our students to really connect with our faculty and be successful.”

Outside the classroom, Molnar says that students can also build one-on-one connections with their enrollment coach and academic adviser, which might not be easy to do at other colleges.

“Knowing that you are not a number, that you are a person and that we care about you really illustrates our values here at COM,” she said.

Ultimately, Molnar wants potential students to know that they do belong in college and that she and her team are there to support them every step of the way.

“As a part of the COM community, we want to ensure that you are plugged into the resources that will help you throughout your time here, personally and professionally,” she said. “We’ll guide you in any way we can because we want you to succeed. We want you to flourish. We want you to thrive.”

COM

in the community

We're "*people people*" who remain committed to breaking down barriers to support the diverse needs of our students and the community that we serve. While finding time to give back can be challenging for some, that spirit of compassion highlights the very essence of the College of the Mainland experience – neighbors helping neighbors.

Here's a snapshot of how COM has been serving the community on campus and beyond.



Community Resource Center ▲

As a community-centered learning institution, College of the Mainland has launched its new Community Resource Center. With access to the right resources and services, our students and community thrive and are better equipped to meet their personal and educational goals.

In partnership with a robust network of local agencies, the one-stop shop of essential

resources will support students, employees and community members in the areas of mental health, food and housing assistance and education services.

All services offered are free to any faculty, staff, students or community members who qualify. To learn more, visit com.edu/crc.

COMPeers ►

Since the College of the Mainland Positive Engagement for Excellence and Real Success (COMPeers) was formed in 2013, the employee volunteer organization has continuously worked throughout the years to support the COM community and neighboring agencies through a variety of volunteering and fundraising efforts. This year, the group has supported the following initiatives:

- The COM United Way Campaign
- Texas Raffle and Fantasy Football
- Pink Out for Breast Cancer
- School Supply Drive for Texas City Independent School District
- National Police Appreciation Week



The group also heads an initiative called Acts of COMPassion to help individual students with emergency needs through a referral process. Additionally, COMPeers also serves as a critical resource to students in need through various donations to the COM Foundation for student scholarships.



◀ Mobile Food Bank Distribution

College of the Mainland has established an ongoing partnership with the Galveston County Food Bank to provide food relief events each semester for those in need through its mobile food bank drive for students and community members.

During the latest food drive event held in April 2022, more than 50 COM students, faculty, staff and community members volunteered to assist which provided 190 families with food supplied by the Galveston County Food Bank.

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society: Sigma Theta Chapter ►

The Sigma Delta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society strives to enrich the college and community by giving students opportunities to develop professional and leadership skills, earn scholarships, explore career paths — and make their worlds a lot bigger.

This year, the group focused on getting students outdoors while teaching them about the importance of the environment through the Allied with Nature's Beauty project. For this project, students worked together to beautify the COM campus by installing planter boxes around campus. PTK members also devoted their efforts to servicing the community with educational workshops and park cleanups through *Bashing Trash for Generational Enjoyment*.

Reaching your goals is easier when you have a supportive community behind you. That's why we've got your back!



WHY COM?

BECAUSE WE'RE LITERALLY CHANGING LIVES

Here at College of the Mainland, we offer an array of innovative and dynamic learning options to meet the unique needs of our students, no matter where they may find themselves on their life journey. With high-impact and engaging areas of study, we're committed to launching our students on a path toward a rewarding career and unparalleled success.

Hear what our students have to say:

Meet Robert

After working in construction for more than a decade, Robert Boysel was soon faced with the life-altering decision to transition into a new career when his employer's company closed. Upon learning about COM's Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) program, he quickly leaped at the opportunity to gain marketable skills and training in less than a year. These skills were fundamental in preparing him for his next chapter in life — a new, rewarding career in HVAC with Galveston County.

"The HVAC world really piqued my interest. The HVAC world is not simple. It is very complex. There's a lot of parts to it but for me that's so rewarding. It's not the same thing every day. You have to have a good knowledge of a lot of things. It's a very diverse field, and that really appealed to me."

"I would absolutely recommend the HVAC program at COM. They're not just somebody who came out of the industry 20 years ago. They are still in it. They understand, and they're really good about walking you through scenarios."

COM's Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) program prepares students for a successful career as an HVAC technician and/or installer through hands-on training. HVAC technicians work with systems in commercial offices, industrial complexes, manufacturing plants, schools, hospitals, hotels, restaurants, construction and residential homes.

Robert Boysel
HVAC Graduate

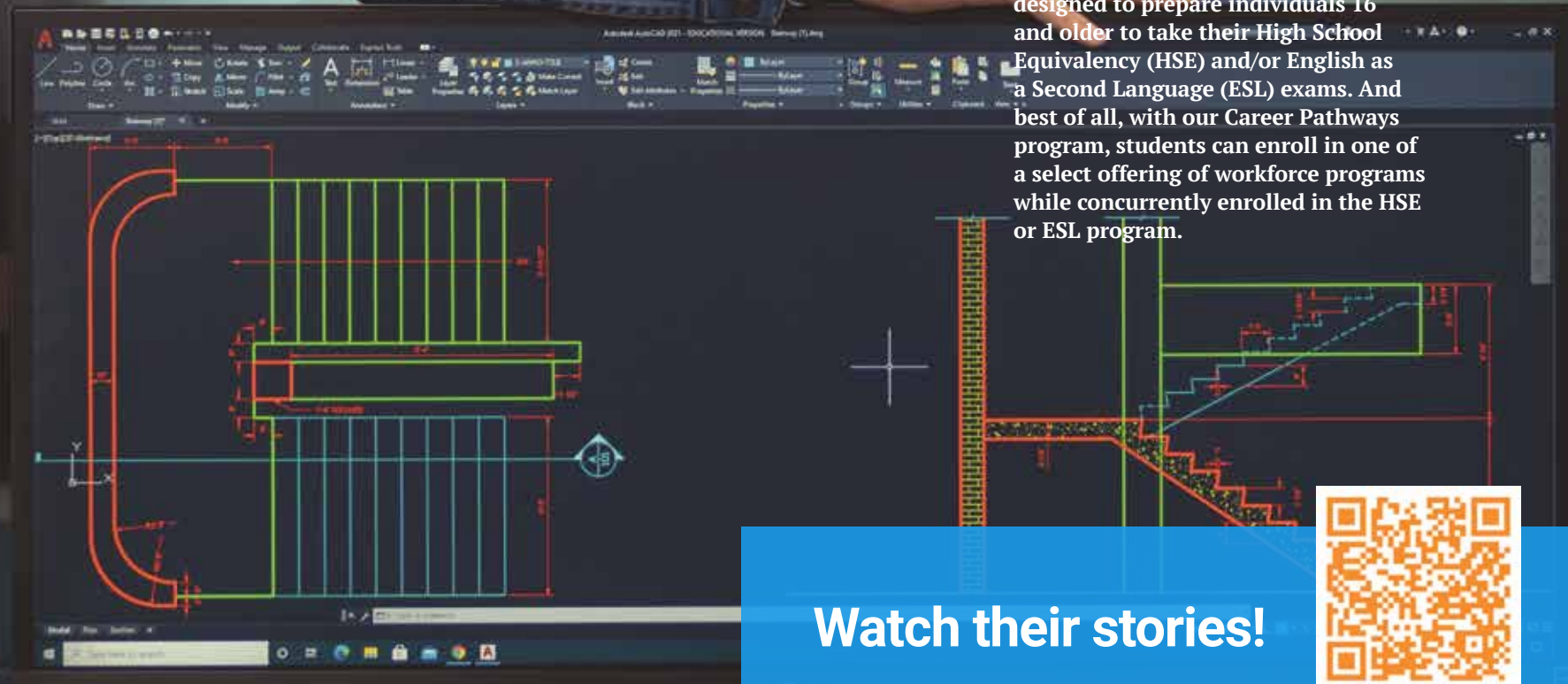
Jose Lopez
Drafting Student

Meet Jose

After moving to Texas due to social, economic, and political tensions in his home country, Jose Lopez now looks forward to maximizing his educational opportunities at COM. After completing the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at COM, he dual enrolled in a workforce program while simultaneously completing his High School Equivalency (HSE).

"The good thing about being enrolled in two programs at the same time is that you can do it faster. After I finish my certificate, I would like to get an associate in drafting. After that, I would like to transfer to a university to study architecture. For me, in order to do that, I need a GED certificate. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to study, get a bachelor's degree and get a good job."

COM's Adult Education programs are designed to prepare individuals 16 and older to take their High School Equivalency (HSE) and/or English as a Second Language (ESL) exams. And best of all, with our Career Pathways program, students can enroll in one of a select offering of workforce programs while concurrently enrolled in the HSE or ESL program.



Watch their stories!



YOUR BOND DOLLAR\$\$\$ AT WORK

Made possible with the overwhelming approval of voters during our \$162.5 million bond program in 2018, College of the Mainland is making room for the future, and that vision is clear as we usher in a number of new and upgraded learning spaces to better serve the growing needs of our students and community.

The new buildings, upgraded technologies and expanded instructional areas that will be housed on our campus demonstrate COM's never-ending commitment to growing the opportunities for student success.

Check out our continued progress as we work to improve the quality of learning for students at COM.

INDUSTRIAL CAREERS BUILDING

With new businesses and industries moving in, the need for skilled workers is on a steady rise. COM is responding to that demand in a major way through its new state-of-the-art Industrial Careers Building (ICB). The building will offer an innovative and dynamic learning and training environment that is responsive to local industry and workforce needs. Most importantly, it will allow students an opportunity to maximize their learning experiences in new and innovative ways.

Occupational Safety and Health Technology (OSHT)

The new facility will give the OSHT program the needed opportunity to incorporate adequate space for a conducive learning environment, extra storage and a demonstration space for hands-on equipment



and tools for our students. These added resources allow students to practice and acquire the necessary technical skills required in the job market. In addition, the space will feature a new mini resource center for students needing textbooks and other materials.

Process Technology (PTEC)

PTEC students will receive top-of-the-line training in a new Glycol Separation Unit. The unit allows students to become familiar with the day-to-day tasks of a process operator. Also featuring state-of-the-art static and working labs, the new PTEC learning environment will house up-to-date working process simulators and static models. By working with the equipment in the labs, students gain a better understanding of the process operator practices and procedures. Students will also be provided with a state-of-the-art tutoring center.

Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC)

The HVAC classroom and lab is a long-term growth strategy that will provide an innovative, collaborative, hands-on learning space to prepare students for in-demand, high-growth careers. Allowing for larger cohorts and the addition of a refrigeration credential, the new space will offer a comprehensive interactive multimedia learning curriculum and state-of-the-art trainers for teaching hands-on skills.

NOW OPEN!

QUICK FACTS

90,264 Square Feet
Three stories
20 classrooms

SPECIAL FEATURES

Expanded PTEC Lab Spaces
Tutoring Center
Campus Data Center
Educational Technology Suite
Study and Collaboration Stations

YOUR BOND DOLLAR\$\$\$ AT WORK

COM WELCOMES NEW POLICE STATION

With the safety and security of the COM community top of mind, COM's new campus police station was designed in close collaboration with the College's law enforcement officials. Featuring a state-of-the-art conference room to hold meetings, emergency management planning, briefings, training and safety presentations, the facility provides a design layout with added functionality. With a controlled-access lobby, visitors are greeted by a dispatcher who is in a secure dispatch center. The dispatch center is the location of the camera monitoring center and telecommunication operations. In addition, all other entrances into the police department are for authorized personnel only.

QUICK FACTS

- 3,552 Square Feet
- Two Interview Rooms
- Four Office Spaces

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Bullet Proof Lobby Entrance/Dispatch Window
- Restricted Controlled Access
- Weapons Lockers
- Enclosed Electronic Salley Port Gate for Safety
- Dispatch Video Wall
- Interior/Exterior Security Cameras
- Evidence/Weapons Storage
- Records and Secure Storage Room

FINE ARTS PROJECTED COMPLETION DATE

Spring 2023

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Expansion of Existing Scene Shop
- Scenic Storage Area
- Green Room
- Dressing Rooms
- Dedicated Academic Theatre Classroom for Classes, Lighting and Sound Design Lab, Project Rehearsals and Classroom Project/Student Studio Productions

FINE ARTS BUILDING TAKES CENTER STAGE

The bond project also calls for additions and renovations to the Fine Arts building. Housing the renowned theatre, music and visual programs, the space will receive a much-needed makeover through a series of strategic facility upgrades. In response to the growth of Fine Arts and the subsequent need for students to have a space for training, the building will feature a medium-sized proscenium theatre space for use as a concert hall for music concerts and for COM Theatre's summer musical.

The project also includes several other updates to maintain and bring the building up to today's learning standards such as a new roof, new doors that meet ADA requirements, replacement of the HVAC equipment and replacement of the domestic water piping.



COM ON THE MOVE

WITH NEW MAINLAND CITY CENTRE FACILITY

College of the Mainland's cosmetology and lifelong learning programs now have a new home in the new impressive 35,000-square-foot Mainland City Centre educational facility. Now open at 10000 Emmett F Lowry Expressway, Suite 4100 in Texas City, the move aligns with the College's ongoing mission to meet the evolving needs of its students and community. The new location allows the College to expand its educational footprint within Galveston County by offering more lifelong learning programs to the community and growing its ever-popular cosmetology programs.

Learn more about these exciting programs!

Cosmetology

The cosmetology program prepares students for success in the field at a fraction of the cost of private institutions. An energetic and ever-changing industry, cosmetology offers many career opportunities that enable creative students to set and achieve their goals.

- **BARBERING:** On the cutting-edge of style, the barbering industry offers many opportunities for individuals to take control of their career and set their own goals. Delve into the wonderful world of barbering and take your career options to new heights. The barbering program trains students in hands-on barbering skills and examines business and industry trends. Industry-trained COM instructors will guide students in the classroom and lab.
- **MASSAGE THERAPY:** If helping others and working in a relaxing, tranquil environment is calling your name, massage therapy is the perfect fit for you. Massage therapists manipulate the soft tissue of one's body by hand or through a mechanical or electrical apparatus for therapeutic purposes. The program is noncredit and nontransferable and helps to prepare students

to enter the health care service industry in one year through our hands-on labs and classes. Upon completing the program and clock hours, you will take the Texas State Board Exam for licensure.

- **ESTHETICS:** Train to enter a rapidly growing field with job opportunities in salons, day spas, medical spas or cruise ships. To help others maintain healthy, glowing skin, estheticians provide facial treatments, peels, masks and scrubs. They may also provide facial hair removal treatments, such as waxing, or apply makeup for special occasions.

To learn more, visit com.edu/academics/cosmetology.

Lifelong Learning

College of the Mainland's lifelong learning classes provide amazing opportunities to explore your passions, learn something new or even travel the globe.

- **50 PLUS:** Explore our affordable, quality learning options for mature learners, aged 50+, through classes designed to inspire as well as help you stay socially connected.

COSMETOLOGY

LIFELONG LEARNING

- **TRIP AND TRAVEL ADVENTURES:** Local trips and extended travel opportunities are a superb way to get to know other community members through educational and fun activities.
- **COMMUNITY EDUCATION:** Community education classes offer personal enrichment opportunities for the benefit and enjoyment of our community ages 18+.

Visit com.edu/lifelonglearning to learn more!

Let's Get You BACK TO WORK

Quick programs | Low tuition | In-demand skills

College of the Mainland is pleased to do our part to rebuild our community and contribute to a vibrant workforce through *Let's Get You Back to Work*, an initiative to rapidly equip displaced and underemployed workers with the skills needed to fill critical industry needs. Through a robust offering of accelerated training and educational resources, we are here to prepare workers in less than a year for careers with labor market value while building permanent talent pipelines to support thriving industries throughout the Gulf Coast region.

Ready to get back to work? Keep reading to check out our newly added featured accelerated programs!

WELDING

Duration: Two Semesters

The sky's the limit for individuals in the dynamic and growing welding industry. Working with artistic precision, welders possess high-level skills that many companies, especially those in manufacturing, compete to employ. Earning a welding certificate will prepare you for positions including welder-pipefitter, structural welder, maintenance mechanics, scaffold builders and millwrights. And best of all, you can continue classes to advance your skills and increase job opportunities through the program.



CYBERSECURITY

Duration: Two Semesters

The cybersecurity occupational skills award prepares students for an in-demand career in this thriving field. Get ready to pursue the job of your dreams through a high-impact and engaging IT industry certification. Hands-on skills are obtained through classroom and online virtual lab environments.



BARBERING

Duration: Three Semesters

On the cutting-edge of fashion, the barbering industry offers many opportunities for you to take control of your career and set your own goals. Depending on how seriously you take your career in the wonderful world of barbering, will determine your personal rewards.



Like what you see?

Start your journey to a rewarding future.

Visit com.edu/backtowork.

HELP WRITE
100
stories

Are you ready to change a future?

These students have a promising future because of **DONORS JUST LIKE YOU!**

RIGHT:
Joshua Quintana
Music

Recipient:
William Gammon
Henry Charitable Trust
Scholarship



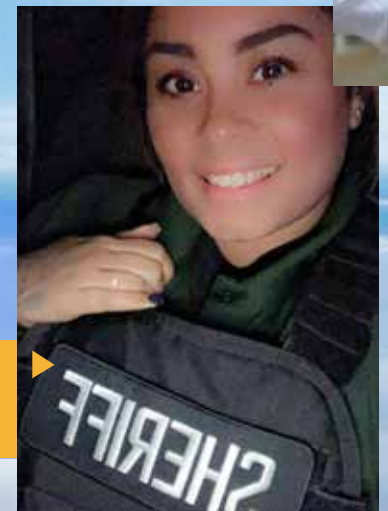
BELOW:
Charles Everts
LVN to RN Transition

Recipient:
Memorial Scholarship
Honoring the 15 Victims
of the 2005 Incident



RIGHT:
Breann Boone
Criminal Justice

Recipient:
Educate A Woman
Scholarship



LEFT:
Ellishae Butler
Petrochemical Process
Technology

Recipient:
Marathon Petroleum Scholarship



ABOVE:
Leena Arif
Nursing

Recipient:
Rachel Boaz Nursing/
Allied Health Scholarship



Visit com.edu/give to
change a student's future.

COM Alumni News

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Dr. Courtni Tello, D.D.S.

College of The Mainland was a great factor in my success. When I decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene, I was able to obtain many credits from College of the Mainland before transferring. It was close to home, affordable and offered the credits that I needed to start my college journey. With the help of a \$1,000 academic scholarship, I was able to focus solely on my academic studies which was a great asset for me. COM gave me the springboard to jump start my education.

After attending the University of Texas School of Dentistry in Houston, I went on to earn my Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree. A native of Texas City, I wanted to serve my hometown and opened my own dental practice, Tello Smiles, in 2019.

College of The Mainland played a great role in my career now, and I am thankful to have this asset in our community.



Thomas Kromis

I'm a retired United States Marine and currently work at NASA's Johnson Space Center as the Section 508 Program Manager as well as a Fire Lieutenant and EMT with the Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). My wife and I moved here from Dallas six years ago, and we chose Friendswood as our new home. I was interested in discovering how I could get more involved in our new community and continue my public service.

That's when I reached out to the Friendswood VFD and found an opportunity where I was introduced to the College of the Mainland when they sponsored me attending the fire academy hosted by COM. Since then, I have sought out numerous other courses at COM, and plan to continue, in an effort to fulfill my passion for lifelong learning.

DID YOU ATTEND COM? Let us know what's happening in your life for a chance to be featured. Email us at: horizons@com.edu

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Lifetime donations to the College of the Mainland Foundation

TEXAS LONE STAR

Level \$5 million and up

- Awaiting gracious donors

TEXAS LONGHORN

Level \$1 million to 4,999,999

- Charles T. and Mary Ellen Doyle
- City of Texas City
- Texas Mutual Insurance Company

KING RANCHER

Level \$500,000 to 999,999

- BP
- Houston Endowment

SILVER SPUR

Level \$250,000 to 499,999

- College of the Mainland Employees
- Dickinson Management District
- Mainland Medical Center Auxiliary
- Marathon Petroleum Co., LP
- The McDaniel Charitable Foundation
- Shell Oil Company

COWBOY

Level \$100,000 to 249,999

- AMOCO Federal Credit Union
- Frank Webb and June Godard Webb
- Del Papa Distributing Company
- Greater Texas Foundation
- Ivan and Linda Langford
- Logical Innovations, Inc.
- Meadows Foundation, Inc.
- The Brown Foundation

- The Carmage and Martha Ann Walls Foundation

MUSTANG

Level \$50,000 to 99,999

- A.J. and Lynn Amato
- Anonymous Donor
- Austin Commercial
- Dr. Bill and Mrs. Genevieve McGarvey
- Consulate General of Mexico in Houston
- Dow Chemical
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Galveston County AFL-CIO
- Hitchcock Industrial Development Corporation
- Joe and Elizabeth Amato
- Linde
- Rockwell Fund, Inc.
- Smith Barney
- Texas Book Company
- Trellis Company
- Valero Refining, Texas City

YELLOW ROSE

Level \$25,000 to 49,999

- Carolyn and Oscar Robinson
- City of Santa Fe
- Craig and Melissa Eiland
- COM-Unity
- Galveston County Daily News
- HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland
- John P. McGovern Foundation
- Kathleen Cailloux Foundation
- LyondellBasell Corporation
- Marianne Duncanson
- Matthew and Debra Doyle
- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
- Moody Foundation

YELLOW ROSE (continued)

- North American Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA)
- PBK, Inc.
- Randy and Peggy Dietel
- Texas Association of Community Colleges
- Texas New Mexico Power
- The Lubrizol Foundation
- Verizon Foundation
- Dr. Warren Nichols, Jr. and Mrs. Chris Nichols
- The William Gammon Henry Charitable Trust
- Ziegler's Foods

BLUEBONNET

Level \$10,000 to 24,999

- A&A Machine & Fabrication, LLC
- Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
- Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
- Associated Credit Union
- Barbara Austin
- Bartlett Cocke General Contractors, LLC
- Bruce Latimer
- Catherine Moran
- CBRE
- Constance and James O'Kane
- Dawn and Jason King
- Dr. Clen and Michelle Burton
- Coast Foundation, Inc.
- Commercial Metals Company #303
- COMPeers
- Darrell and Debra Booth
- Dorothy Godard
- Douglas and Dr. Crystal Alvarez
- Ernie and Kathy Deats
- Eva Rowe
- Fidelity Investments
- Fred Krebs

BLUEBONNET (continued)

- Fred Sandberg
- Dr. Gary E. and Diane Wilson
- Gary and Catherine Potter
- Jack McConnell
- Mayor James and Carol Yarbrough
- Jason and Angie Bass
- Jeanette Godard Robbins
- Dr. Jere Hammer
- John Glowczwski
- Karsten Interior Services, L.P.
- Ken and Carolyn Adams
- Larry Smith
- Lawrence and Sue Edrozo
- Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation
- Mary Ann and Eric Amelang
- CDR Maxine Wilcox, USCG Ret
- MGC, Inc.
- Moody National Bank
- On the Run, Inc.
- Peter and Henrietta Doak
- Ralph and Linda Holm
- Robert C. and Pat Updegrove
- Robert Handy and Janet Ward
- Ronald Shelby
- Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation
- Scholarship America
- Terrence and Rosalie Kettler
- Texas City – La Marque Chamber of Commerce
- Texas First Bank
- Texas Higher Education Foundation
- Texas Pioneer Foundation
- Trevino Group, Inc.
- Twilight & Marc Freedman Foundation
- Dr. Vicki Stanfield and Mr. Richard Stanfield
- Dr. Yolanda Waters and Mr. Alan Waters

OPENING DOORS PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

The Opening Doors Promise Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship opportunity that covers the cost of tuition and fees for up to two full years for any eligible Class of 2023 graduating high school student pursuing full-time studies at COM. Participating students can earn an associate degree or complete a workforce training certificate program.

Participating Communities

- Texas City
- La Marque
- Hitchcock
- Dickinson
- Santa Fe

Eligibility

- Class of 2023 high school graduates GED, public, private, home or charter school students
- Texas City, La Marque, Hitchcock, Dickinson or Santa Fe residing student
- La Marque High School students, regardless of residence
- GED students must be between the ages of 17-19
- No income or high school GPA requirement

Questions?

Contact COM's Financial Aid Office at 409-933-8274 or finaid@com.edu.

College of the Mainland les promete matrícula gratuita a los estudiantes que se graduarán de bachillerato o que recientemente obtuvieron un GED. Para obtener más información, vaya a WWW.COM.EDU/PROMESA

Apply Now!

Complete these simple steps:

Step 1:

Apply to COM.

Step 2:

Apply for Financial Aid.

It's really that easy!

Students are strongly encouraged to begin completing their application steps now.

Unlock your promising future today! Visit COM.EDU/PROMISE to learn more.



Opening Doors One Student at a Time

Facing the financial challenges of pursuing higher education is a tough reality for many college students. College of the Mainland is helping to alleviate that burden through its tuition-free college initiative, the Opening Doors Promise Scholarship. Since launching last year, the scholarship enrolled 248 new Promise students representing the cities within COM's taxing district. Check out what one student has to say about taking her first step toward a promising tomorrow:

Devyn Cook

Santa Fe High School, Class of 2021

"The Promise Scholarship has graciously given me the opportunity to further my education. Since I fall between the lines of my parents making too much money to qualify for aid and not making enough to pay for college out of pocket, this scholarship has opened the door for me to be on the path I've always wanted to be on. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to better myself and my future."





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