

College of the Mainland
Industrial Careers Building Grand Opening
October 21, 2022
2 p.m.

- **Welcome**

Dr. Warren Nichols, President

Good Afternoon. I am Dr. Warren Nichols, president of College of the Mainland. Thank you for joining us today as we celebrate this special occasion. We are truly embarking on a profound Season of Transformation, and I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you for making this moment possible.

Today is a great day to be a student at COM! I am proud to welcome all of you to our campus. In a few moments, we will unveil our new Industrial Careers Building, or as we call it, the ICB. This moment has been a long time coming. I want you all to take a moment to recognize the gravity of this occasion. This time marks an inspiring opportunity for us to witness the realization of the priceless investment that our community has committed toward the continued growth and innovation at COM. With the overwhelming support of voters during our 2018 Bond Program, today is possible.

We are extremely proud to note that this ICB project was completed on time – in 15 months – and under budget at \$42 million.

The community college that we all may have once known is changing right before our eyes as we evolve to keep pace with the progressing needs of our community and the dynamic growth of the region. Housing innovative and advanced technologies – such as our brand-new Process Technology glycol separation unit and several extended

lab spaces – this new facility offers a dynamic learning and training environment that is attractive and responsive to local industry and workforce needs.

Featuring more than 90,000 square feet of learning space, the new ICB also houses our Tutoring Center along with our Occupational Health and Safety Technology, HVAC, Instrumentation, Electrical and Collegiate High School programs.

While we are proud of the new classrooms, expanded instructional capacity and upgraded technology that comes with a new building, this transformation also paints a broader picture of the renewed spirit of the College of the Mainland learning experience as our college continues to evolve to meet the growing needs of our students and community.

That said, I am happy to have you all here today and I want to thank you for helping us celebrate.

First, I would like to recognize our Board of Trustees.

- Chairman Dr. Bill McGarvey
- Vice Chair Alan Waters
- Secretary Melissa Skipworth
- Kyle Dickson
- Don Gartman
- Dr. Verna Henson
- Dawn King

I am struck with great pride as I look around and see the tremendous support across our college community. I would like to take a moment to give special recognition to a few guests who have played a significant role in making today a reality.

- Elected Officials
 - Senator Larry Taylor
 - Faye Picard representing the Office of Rep. Dr. Greg Bonnen
 - Jared Bargas representing the Office of Congressman Randy Weber
 - Texas City Mayor, Dedrick Johnson
 - Texas City Mayor Pro Tem, Thelma Bowie
 - Any other elected leaders stand and be recognized
- Former College of the Mainland President Dr. Beth Lewis
- I especially want to extend a special thank you to our partners at Austin Commercial, PBK and CBRE Heery not only for their work in realizing this beautiful facility, but also for their support in going above and beyond to sponsor today's event.
- Thank you to our local Chambers of Commerce
- And thank you to our Staff, Faculty and Students

And to every one of you who are here today. Thank you for being here and thank you for the support you have shown COM.

I now would like to invite to the podium, COM Board of Trustees Chair Dr. William McGarvey

- **Dr. William McGarvey**

Good afternoon. I am Dr. Bill McGarvey, and I have the pleasure of serving as chair of the College of the Mainland Board of Trustees.

I would like to echo Dr. Nichols, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you all for being with us today and for your continual support.

Today is a special day. Behind me stands the beautiful Industrial Careers Building. This building is nothing short of remarkable!

Whether it's through innovative programs that inspire students to unlock their passions or dynamic facilities advancing educational excellence for the next generation of learners, we are proud to be ushering in this exciting new season of transformation and change. The Industrial Careers Building is only one of many bold steps that this college is taking to transform the landscape of the learning experience for our entire college community.

While we should all be proud of COM's continued growth and transformation in recent years, I can assure you, the best is yet to come. Together, we look forward to exploring new opportunities to propel our community forward through our common goal of creating a better future for tomorrow's learners and leaders.

And now, I'd like to invite Senator Larry Taylor to say a few words.

- **Senator Larry Taylor**

Will say a few words.

- **Mayor Dedrick Johnson**

Will say a few words.

- **Dr. Jerry Fliger**

A few remarks (approx. 2-3 minutes) about the programming/instructional side of things (HVAC, OSHT, CHS, Instrumentation, Electrical, PTEC, etc.).

- And then introduce our featured speaker, Stephen Flowers. He is a COM Class of 2013 PTEC graduate who now works for Dow. While at COM, Stephen was a founding member of the PTEC Club and has a tremendous story of personal transformation of his own that he would like to share with us today.

- **Stephen Flowers**

Will say a few words.

- **Closing remarks - President Nichols**

Let's give Stephen another round of applause.

<pause for applause>

I'm so glad that you all had the opportunity to hear Stephen's story and learn more about his journey here at College of the Mainland. His story is only one of the many stories of transformation that I have the pleasure of hearing about when I talk to our students. One thing is for certain. Here at College of the Mainland, we are truly

transforming lives, one student at a time.

Looking toward the future, I am thrilled to embark on this new journey with you. We have new leaders, new buildings and new programs. We have transformation. And while that transformation is bold, we're only getting started. By providing a high-quality and innovative educational experience, our college community will be better, stronger and ready to reach limitless potential.

As you are touring our Industrial Careers Building today, I encourage you to speak with our students and faculty. Learn more about our programs. Explore the possibilities and discover what makes us remarkably COM.

I want to thank you all again for being with us today. Thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to be a part of your community.

With that being said, we're now going to do our official ribbon cutting and photos. So, just hang tight. We're going to take three photos:

- First, I'd like to get the COM board of trustees to join me for a photo.
- Second, I need all our elected officials to join us.
- For the third photo, I'd like to invite our Chambers up along with everyone else who'd like to join us for the final ribbon cutting photo.

Then, after the ribbon cutting, we'll open the doors to the ICB.

<Scott/Diane/Rosie, lead into photo opps>

(Diane, Rosie will help escort guests accordingly)