

WHAT IS THE “ZAPATA COUNTY HIGHER EDUCATION AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER”?

A state-of-the-art center housed in a building specifically dedicated to education and job training which will result in job creation and job retention:

- The center will serve as a primary source for instruction and training for high school students to access college credit courses and vocational/technology training.
- To provide community and the students access to programs that prepare individuals for career in high skill wage jobs
- Will respond to the area employers needs by providing adequate education and training to an available workforce.
- Will serve as a resource for small business start-ups and entrepreneurial skills development.

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

- Local: ZC Education & Workforce Steering Committee, Zapata County, Zapata County Economic Development Center, Zapata County Independent School District, Workforce Solutions for South Texas, Zapata County Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center.
- Higher Education: Laredo Community College, Texas A&M International University and regional institutions.
- Funding: Economic Development Administration, Office of Rural Community Affairs, Mr. & Mrs. Jose M. Ramirez, Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Foundation, Zapata County, ZCISD, Zapata County Economic Development Center, Workforce Solutions for South Texas

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE BEING OFFERED?

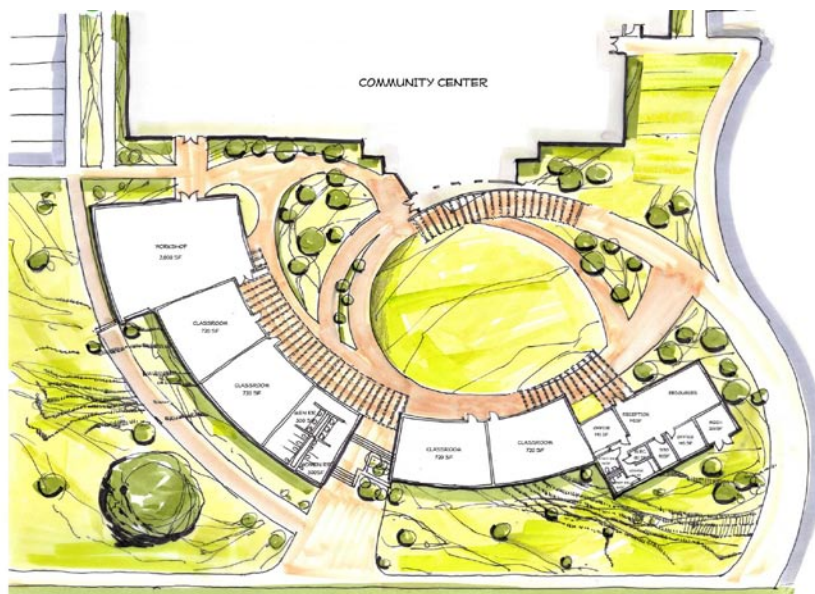
A Range of coursework and job training programs will be offered to our county residents, businesses, and high school students. Instruction will be delivered on-site, on-line and via distance learning.

- 2 year and 4 year academic degree programs
- GED and English-Second-Language (ESL)
- Continuing Education
- Vocational/Industrial/technical programs
- 1 year and 2 year certificate programs
- Adult Education
- Dual and Concurrent Enrollment
- Customized training

WHAT WILL INITIALLY BE IN THE BUILDING?

The multi-purpose building will be comprised of 4 state-of-the-art classrooms and computer labs, administrative offices and career center, and a distance learning/auditorium/conference center with video teleconferencing technology.

WHAT WILL THE FACILITY LOOK LIKE?



WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM GOALS?

- The common thread that all communities have is the need to provide jobs for their citizens.
- The education center is a necessary first step in the process for the development of a more qualified workforce in Zapata County, Texas
- The center will provide access and a low-cost opportunity to develop the skill base and essential knowledge of the County's residents that is necessary to meet the needs of current and expanding business while providing an attractive base for new companies to move in to the area and the creation of new jobs.

WHAT IS THE FORECAST FOR THE FUTURE?

The Zapata County Advanced Technology Center will be:

- The catalyst for assisting Zapata County in developing a workforce economic impact model that will expand demand occupations and target industries for the area
- The cornerstone for the community and business leaders to assist them in directing efforts in securing direct investments, funding, reducing the unemployed labor force of 10.4% (June 2009), and target jobs that will empower Zapata County residents to exceed their per capita income of \$17,637 (2007-which ranks 250th statewide) over the next (5) years.