

College of the Mainland®

Horizons

Magazine

SPRING 2021

ENROLLMENT ISSUE



Attend College with Tuition and Fees Covered – See Page 22

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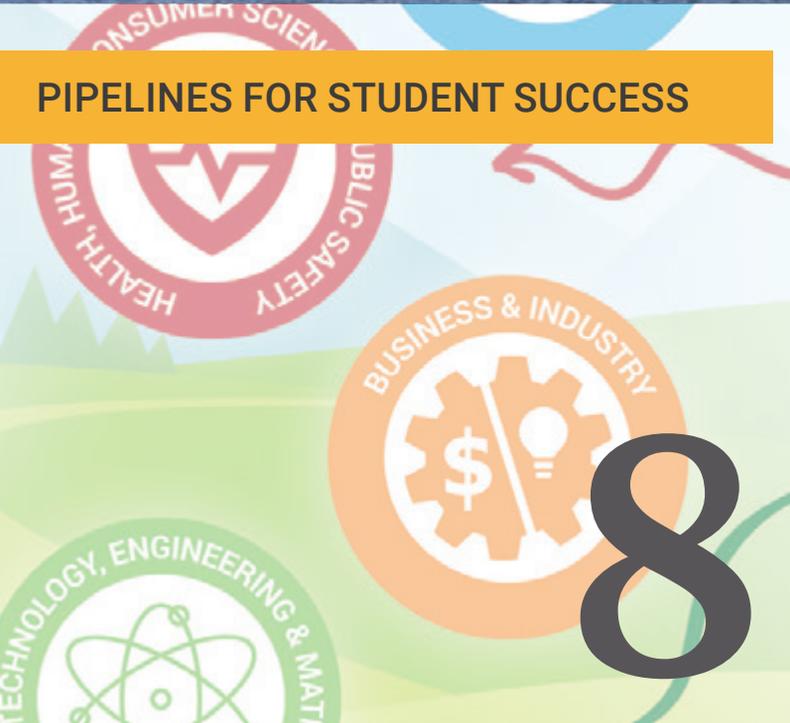
31

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS:

- ENGINEERING
- ACCELERATED DEGREE PROGRAM

PIPELINES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



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PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

ATTEND COLLEGE
WITH ALL TUITION
AND FEES COVERED

22

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.

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Message FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here at College of the Mainland, our students are our story.

Their successes, experiences, journeys and transformations — their stories are what make us remarkably COM. With that in mind, we invited our students to share, in their own words, their favorite things about COM.

As you read on, I think you will find that their responses so candidly reflect the core of who we are.

Our students' success is our success, and every day they inspire me and the work of our college family. I am grateful for our caring faculty, who nurture our students as they discover their individual strengths and talents, and our academic advisors who guide them from day one through graduation. Without a doubt, the COM experience is an experience like no other. But most of all, that experience would not be possible without you. Our college community has continuously demonstrated their support of our work. And through that support, we will soon be welcoming an exciting new phase of learning at COM.

As this letter is written, our unwavering commitment to progressing the student experience is taking new heights as the construction of our new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and

Administration buildings draw to a close. These buildings represent more than just brick and mortar structures. The facilities will serve as a gateway for our students to unlock their fullest potential through a carefully crafted

network of learning pipelines uniquely tailored to fuel student success. We are confident now, more than ever, that a COM student will forever be a student who remains actively engaged and ready to thrive in our diverse, dynamic and global environment.

Looking toward the future, I am thrilled to experience this new journey with you. New programs are on the horizon and exciting things are in store. By providing a high-quality and innovative educational experience,

our college community will be better, stronger and ready to reach limitless potential.

As you enjoy this issue of Horizons, I encourage you to read on to discover where an education at COM can take you. Apply today and experience the COM difference!

Dr. Warren Nichols
President, College of the Mainland



PEOPLE

"What I love about COM are the people. They are really nice. Everyone you know is always trying to pitch in to help you do better."

- VUONG



AFFORDABLE

"Honestly, I like everything about COM. It's affordable. It's close to home."

- MARIANA



FACULTY

"I love the faculty and staff. If I need any help, I have TRIO or the student center. Class instructors are helpful. They'll help you with everything you need."

- DA'VON



CULTURE

"My favorite thing about COM is the culture that they're brewing here. I love the staff members and all the faculty."

- FRANK

FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT COM

OPPORTUNITIES

"What I love about COM are the opportunities for career paths."

- JAY



COMFORTABLE

"I'm a foreign student, and the people are really nice here. I had a great teacher. He taught me a lot, and I feel a lot more comfortable now with writing and talking and everything."

- ALINA

STUDENT LIFE

"I love how diverse and active the campus is with student life. There are so many clubs and organizations we can join."

- ELIZABETH



CLOSE TO HOME

"My favorite thing about COM is that it's so close to home. It's only five minutes away, so it's better for me to take advantage of this opportunity."

- MARCO

FUN

"They have great faculty here. Amazing clubs. It's just fun going here. The feeling of this campus is very nice."

- RAUL



HANDS-ON

"My favorite thing about COM and the welding program is that the teachers are hands-on."

- RHEMII

COMMUNITY

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

14:1

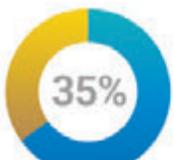


4,335

Total Fall 2020 enrollment

STUDENT AGES

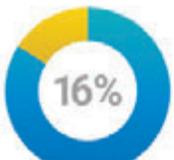
AVERAGE AGE: 22*



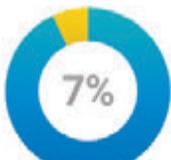
UNDER 18



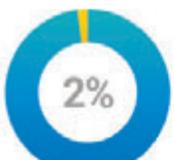
18-24



25-34



35-44



45 AND OVER

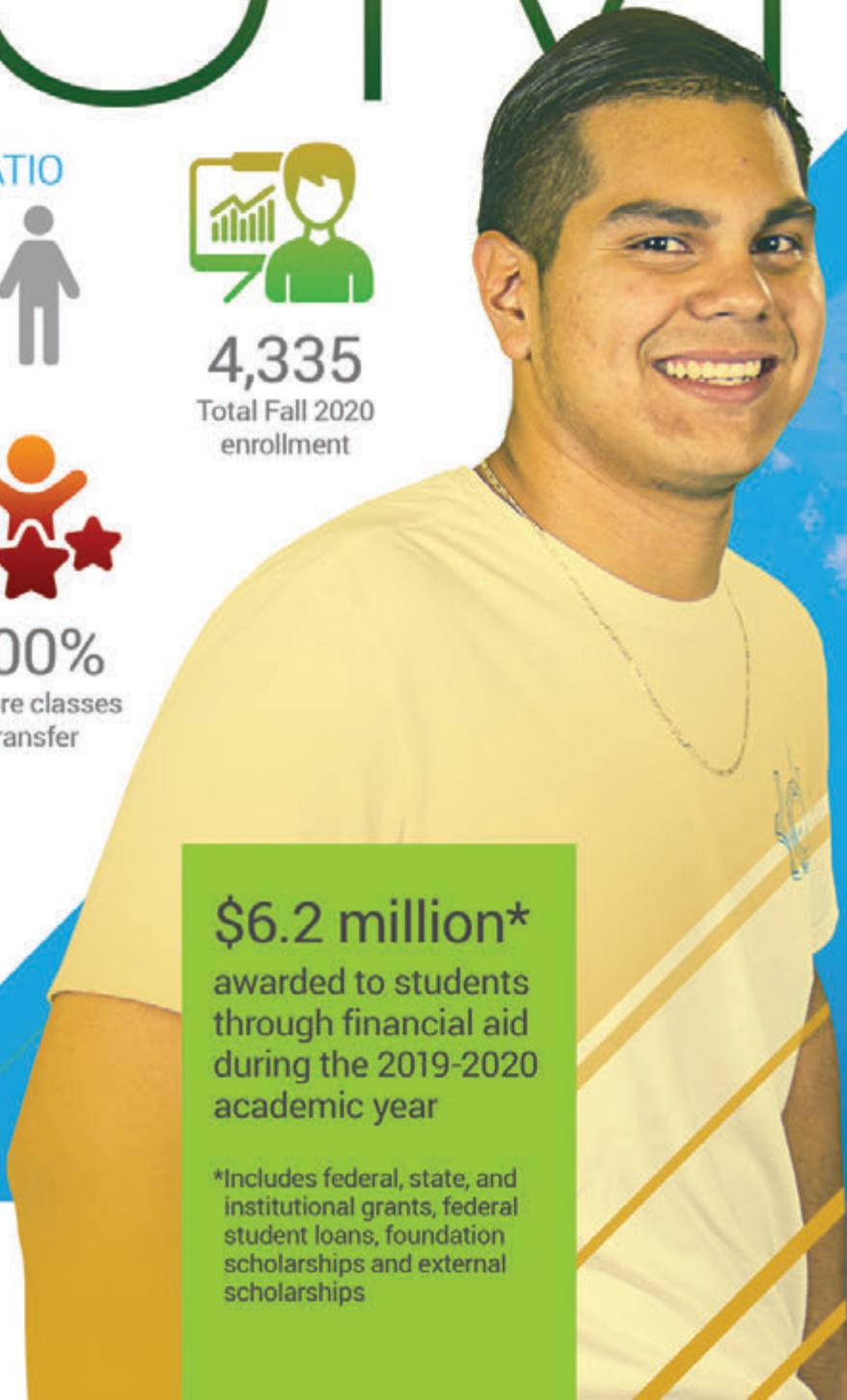


100%
of core classes
transfer

\$6.2 million*

awarded to students through financial aid during the 2019-2020 academic year

*Includes federal, state, and institutional grants, federal student loans, foundation scholarships and external scholarships



THE BENCHMARKS

Affordable Price

\$1,773

College of the Mainland

\$2,688

Regional Community Colleges

\$10,263

Regional Universities

*Tuition and fees for two semesters with 15 credit hours each semester

Value for the Money

For just a fraction of the cost of a smartphone, your small investment can make a BIG impact over the course of a lifetime!

\$886.50*

Cost of one semester at COM

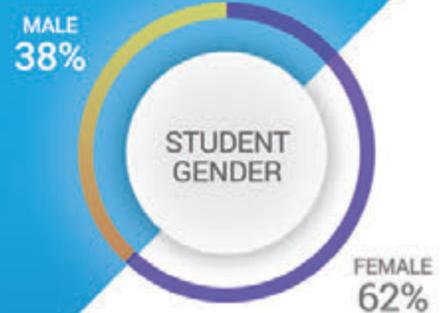
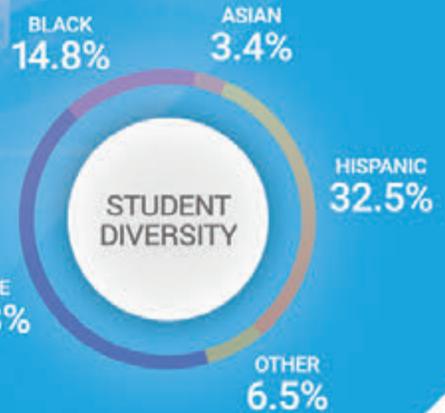
VS

\$1,100

Newest iPhone model



*Tuition and fees for one semester with 15 credit hours



91%

Within one year of earning a degree or certificate, 91% of our graduates are either working or enrolled in an institution to continue furthering their education.

Finding the Path That's Right for You

Whether students are looking to transfer to a university or prepare for a new career or trade, College of the Mainland offers innovative and dynamic learning opportunities to meet the unique needs of every learner, and all core classes transfer. With small class sizes taught by experienced faculty, our carefully crafted network of learning pipelines will help students focus on a meaningful path best suited for their individual goals.

Meta-Majors and Guided Pathways offer clearly defined and intentional educational avenues so that our students can quickly and purposefully complete their academic journey. Through these initiatives, our advisors will help students find their strengths, identify a relevant and rewarding career field, establish an educational path and keep them moving toward it!



Meta-Majors

With more than 25 associate degree programs and nearly 30 workforce development and job training certificate programs from which to choose, we are confident that COM has the right fit for you. Learn more about our Meta-Majors:

Arts and Humanities

Economics, English, Government, History, Humanities, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, Speech, Theater, Visual Arts

Health, Human and Consumer Science and Public Safety

Barbering, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Education, Emergency Medical Services, Esthetician, Fire Technology, Health Information, Law Enforcement, Medical Assisting, Nursing, Pharmacy Technology, Physical Education

Business and Industry

Business, Cyber Security, Drafting, Graphic Arts, Occupational Safety and Health Technology, Process Technology, Welding

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Computer Information Systems, Engineering, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Physical Sciences

We know that choosing the right courses and completing a degree in a way that best fits our students' needs can be challenging, so our academic advisors are here to guide students every step of the way. No matter the course of study, advisors are here to help students as they start their college journey at COM.

Aligning with COM's Guided Pathways model, students are paired with an academic advisor who supports their specific educational path. From selecting the best courses that align with career pursuits to empowering students to make informed academic decisions, our advisors are here to help nurture students' individual strengths and talents and keep them moving toward a rewarding future.

Start Your Journey at COM

A quick and seamless start to a bachelor's degree starts at COM. Our wide selection of academic transfer opportunities allows students to stay close to home and save money on the first two years of school before transferring to a four-year institution. The Guided Pathways program and Meta-Majors ensures students only take classes tailored to a student's degree plan and will transfer.



Scan the QR code to begin your journey today!

Or visit com.edu/info

LAYING THE FOUNDATION *for the Future*

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. OFFERING STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUCTIONAL AREAS FOR STUDENTS, EXPLORE A FEW OF OUR NEWEST FACILITIES PROJECTS.

Join Us!
Community Grand Open House

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021

- 2 p.m. – Ribbon Cutting and Groundbreaking Ceremonial Presentation
- 3 p.m. – Public Tours for Community

STEAM Building

1200 N. Amburn Road
Texas City, Texas 77591

PARKING LOT F, BUILDING 22



FOUNDATION

STEAM
BUILDING

Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Math (STEAM)

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 our new state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) building. The building will offer an innovative and dynamic learning and training environment that is attractive and responsive to local industry and workforce needs.

- Groundbreaking – August 2019
- Opening – Spring 2021
- Quick Facts
 - Roughly 70 feet tall
 - 168,723 square feet
 - Four stories
 - 24 classrooms
 - 28 labs
 - Nine student areas
- Programs Housed Include
 - Nursing
 - Allied Health
 - Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering
 - Dental Assisting
 - Dental Hygiene
 - Surgical Technician
 - Radiological Technician
 - Lab Assistant
- Special Features
 - Nursing Simulation Lab with 10 individual Simulation Rooms
 - Psychiatric “Day Room” Simulation Lab
 - Two Computer Labs for Testing
 - 100-Person Lecture Classroom
 - Student Lounge and Study/ Collaboration Spaces
 - Expanded Cybersecurity Networking Lab
 - Audio/Video Lab
 - Upgraded Science Labs

Administration Building

With a sharp focus on providing a comprehensive network of services to support a successful college journey, COM's new Administration Building will serve as a centralized one-stop resource center to cater to all student needs from start to finish.

- **Groundbreaking** – August 2019
- **Opening** – Spring 2021
- **Quick Facts**
 - 63,257 square feet
 - Two stories
 - 84 offices
- **Programs Housed Include**
 - Admissions
 - Financial Aid
 - Help Center
 - Student Success
 - College Connections
 - Veterans' Center
- Testing Services
- Student Engagement
- **Special Features**
 - Multipurpose Conference Center
 - Central Atrium Student Lounge
 - Board of Trustees Meeting Room

Industrial Careers Building

COM's Process Technology (PTECH) program – the first of its kind in the country – will be able to expand in the new Industrial Careers Building. Space in the 90,000 square-foot building will also be allotted for the relocation of the Gulf Coast Safety Institute as well as the Occupational Hygiene and Safety Technician and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) programs.

- **Groundbreaking** – Spring 2021
- **Projected Completion Date** – Fall 2022
- **Quick Facts**
 - 90,264 square feet
 - Three stories
- 20 classrooms
- **Programs Housed Include**
 - Process Technology (PTECH)
 - Gulf Coast Safety Institute
 - Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC)
- Occupational Safety and Health Technology (OSHT)
- **Special Features**
 - Expanded PTECH Lab Spaces
 - Campus Data Center
 - Educational Technology Suite

COM League City – NOW OPEN

The League City facility will allow the college to further its student reach across its service area as the League City region maintains an increasingly strong presence at COM. The facility will offer an accessible and convenient option for students residing in that region while also addressing the steady growth in the area.

- **Quick Facts**
 - More than 27,570 square feet
 - 10 classrooms
 - Conveniently located near Interstate 45
- **Programs Housed Include**
 - Accelerated Associate of Arts Degree
 - Dual Credit
- General Education Classes
- **Special Features**
 - Study/Collaboration Spaces
 - Student Lounge
 - Wet Lab for Biology Instruction
 - Testing Center
 - Computer Lab



With the exception of the COM League City facility, all the buildings are funded by the 2018 \$162.5 million general obligation bond.

Photo:
Luis Sabido

Gaining Diverse Perspectives in the Classroom

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professors not only teach classes and build curriculum, but they also cultivate a deeper sense of self by encouraging students to explore diverse perspectives from the world around them. It is through this teaching philosophy that the work of College of the Mainland sociology professor Luis Sabido shines.

A longtime educator, one of Sabido's earliest memories of education's impact began as a child growing up in Central America where he vividly remembers his parents teaching in Puerto Rico and Belize. "Growing up, I was surrounded by teachers in the family," Sabido explains. Through this unique cultural lens, Sabido acquired the acute ability to connect with people from every walk of life, a skillset that he brings to his classroom instruction today.

"I think the more diverse experiences you bring to the teaching profession, the more enhanced your instruction will be," Sabido said. "And that will lead you to be more creative in your teaching with your students."

It is this focus on diversity that drives his work at COM, where he spends countless hours helping students break down barriers, from taking classes as an ESL learner, to coping with transition from overseas service in the military or a parent's job loss.

"Diversity comes in different shapes and forms," Sabido said. "I need to know the student. I need to know that each student is different, that each student comes in with a different mindset in terms of past experiences. So I have to reach out to each unique learner so that I can comprehend each of their strengths and weakness."



To read Luis' full story, visit:
horizons.com.edu

Blazing New Trails

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Photo:
Ginger Pace

Ginger Pace always sought to set an example for her family that hard work pays off. After receiving her GED, she enrolled at College of the Mainland (COM) in 2017, becoming the first generation in her family to attend college.

For the Texas City wife and mother of three, that accomplishment did not come easy. The past few years were nothing short of a balancing act of managing academic studies with family commitments, responsibilities as an officer in Phi Theta Kappa honor society and volunteer work in the community. But as a first-generation college student, she always knew that her journey, albeit untraditional, would lay an important foundation for her entire family.

“At first it was a little hard,” Ginger explained. “I’m not your typical straight-out-of-high-school college student. But I finally decided that it was time for me to go to college. Growing up in a home that wasn’t educated, this is something that I felt that I needed to do in order to be successful for my family.”

After finding support from COM’s learning community, she found the perfect balance between her personal, school and extracurricular obligations.

“Between family, volunteering and school, time budgeting is important,” Ginger said. “Being in the position I am right now, COM has given me every opportunity to finish my dream and know that my goal is attainable.”

Through her involvement in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and TRIO program, which offers supplementary support for first-generation college students navigating through their transition, Ginger soon found a much-needed network of support within the COM family. Those resources helped her to stay on track and remain focused on reaching her end goal.

“As a student here at College of the Mainland, it was easier when I found all the resources,” Ginger said. “I didn’t feel alone. I wasn’t here by myself. With all the involvement and all the help, it helped me to succeed and excel to where I’m at now.”

To read Ginger’s full story, visit:
horizons.com.edu



FROM COM TO UHCL: TRANSFERRING TO SUCCESS

Photo:
Jibin Johns

Sometimes teaching others is the best way to learn. Jibin Johns learned this firsthand while pursuing his general studies degree at College of the Mainland. While not quite sure where his studies would ultimately lead him, Johns knew that he eventually wanted to transfer to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree. And he soon discovered that COM's vast network of pipelines and resources were an important asset on his journey to reach his academic goals at COM and beyond.

Upon arriving at COM, Johns joined TRIO Student Support Services, which provides resources that help underrepresented students reach graduation. For Johns, the group was instrumental in stepping in as a much-needed support system while he learned to readjust to college life when his family moved back to India. While in TRIO, Johns connected with advisors and other students who helped him navigate through his college experience. "The TRIO advisors helped me to move forward without any struggle, and they were very supportive," Johns said.

Now, Johns' role has transitioned from student to teacher where he currently works in the TRIO program as a math tutor. He says he enjoys it because "while not everyone is good at math, I can help them with study skills and creating better habits."

In 2019, Johns transferred to University of Houston–Clear Lake (UHCL) to pursue a degree in Computer Information Systems. While the transition to a four-year institution can be challenging for some, Johns credits his experience at COM for helping him transfer seamlessly to university life. "My time at COM helped me to develop the skills necessary for UHCL, so the transition didn't feel very difficult."



To read Jibin's full story, visit:
horizons.com.edu

ENGINEERING

A NEW ROAD TO SUCCESS

This fall there will be seats open for students who want to embark on a well-paid, highly sought-after career in engineering. That's when College of the Mainland will launch two brand new Associate of Science degrees in both mechanical and chemical engineering.

Students in the program will build a foundational knowledge of engineering principles and explore concepts through labs, hands-on class activities and extracurricular opportunities. The 60-credit hour degree program, which will be taught over the course of four semesters, will allow students to gain marketable skills in empirical and quantitative analysis, critical thinking, communication, and teamwork while completing their coursework and laboratory requirements. Upon completion, the program will prepare students to seamlessly transfer to a four-year institution to complete an engineering bachelor's degree.

Associate of Science in Mechanical Engineering courses include:

- Engineering Graphics I
- Programming for Engineers
- Engineering Mechanics – Statics
- Mechanics II

Associate of Science in Chemical Engineering courses include:

- General Chemistry I and II
- University Physics I and II
- Elementary Chemical Engineering
- Programming for Engineers

While developing the new engineering coursework, instructional leaders worked closely to create a solid foundation that ensures the college is designing a meaningful curriculum while still providing latitude for faculty to develop the program and provide the best possible learning environment. To this end, COM will utilize existing chemistry faculty while bringing in one new faculty member for mechanical engineering classes. Additionally, COM is looking to maximize the program's potential by hiring a STEM success coach to help provide additional supports to its Hispanic student population and place students in internships along the Gulf Coast region and beyond.



To read the full story, visit:
horizons.com.edu

ACCELERATED ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

Get on the Fast Track at COM

While traditionally the path to an associate degree has been a two-year journey, College of the Mainland students now have the opportunity to expedite that process by obtaining an Associate of Arts degree in just 18 months. The accelerated nature of the program means students can get in and out quickly so they can stay on track to further their higher educational pursuits.

This accelerated degree is meant to provide a focused starting point for students interested in beginning a college education but aren't quite sure where to specialize yet. As Dr. Rocky Barney, Dean of Instruction explains, "It was designed to make sure a student could jump in at any time. Any semester a new group of students can sign up."

Similar to COM's current general studies degree, but delivered in a compressed scheduling format, the new accelerated degree program will offer an added layer of convenience as classes will be offered in an evening timeslot.

The new accelerated degree program is just one of many

academic offerings that will be housed at COM's new League City facility at 1411 West Main Street. The new facility has more than 27,570 square feet of remodeled learning spaces including ten classrooms, a wet lab for biology and a testing center.

While COM is gauging interest in the program, Barney notes that it is not necessarily tied to the League City location. "We see this as a flagship program, but if it has community demand and meets the needs of students, we may start offering it at the main campus."



Scan the QR code
to make a change
today!

Or visit com.edu/info

STUDENT SUCCESS:

WE HAVE A PRESCRIPTION FOR THAT

RIGHT:
Lisa Homburg



Cultivating a personalized, student-centered learning environment shapes the core of the College of the Mainland experience. And nowhere is that more visible than in Lisa Homburg's classroom. Homburg, who serves as the program coordinator for the COM Pharmacy Technician program, is a registered pharmacist who brings more than 20 years of industry experience to the classroom. But perhaps what makes her classroom most unique is that she brings a smile, warm heart and listening ear to every student as they navigate through the complex and ever-changing pharmaceutical field.

"As an instructor, I truly believe that I am here for the student,"

Homburg explained. "As a community college, we are student centered, and I really take that to heart. I try to make myself very accessible, very approachable. I want to be here for those students. I'm invested in their success."

And to say that the COM Pharmacy Technician program is successful would be an understatement. Since joining the COM family in 2011, Homburg can proudly boast that her past nine student cohorts have averaged a 91% pass rate on their certification exam. Of the nine, four cohorts scored a 100% certification exam pass rate. Consecutively ranked as one of the top pharmacy technician programs in the nation, Homburg and her team work diligently to ensure that students achieve a high pass rate, are readily employable and achieve long-term success in the fast-growing industry.

Homburg has propelled the program by developing a comprehensive curriculum that meets or exceeds the standards set by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. While in the program, students are exposed to relevant coursework to prepare them to pass the national certification exam. They also have an opportunity to take numerous sample certification exams, so that graduates feel comfortable with the



format of the exam, develop endurance and time management techniques to accommodate the length of the exam, and ultimately approach the national exam with confidence.

While Homburg develops coursework and prepares students to function as an efficient pharmacy technician, her role is truly multifaceted as she also serves as an advocate and supporter. “My role is primarily to make sure they learn the skills and the knowledge that they need, but I really still need to be here for them as a cheerleader, to encourage them and to make certain that they are achieving their full potential,” said Homburg. It is this holistic approach to instruction that truly sets the COM Pharmacy Technician program apart.

Through her hands-on instructional style and heartfelt desire to see students succeed, she has had the opportunity to witness dozens of students transform in her classroom. “I think a lot of our students come in, and they don’t even recognize their full potential. And to be a cheerleader on the sideline to me is just as important as being that instructor at the front of the room.”

That sideline support includes being flexible and accessible for every person who enters her classroom. She proudly explains that when a student runs into a challenge, no matter how big or small, she’s only a phone call away. “They have my cell number,” Homburg said. “I encourage them to call me when they have issues. I try to work with them one-on-one to get to know all of my students.”

Now teaching her 10th cohort of students, Homburg’s focus is success beyond graduation. In the program, students are prepared with the necessary skills and proficiencies to be successful in an entry-level position. Program faculty have extensive and diverse experience in both retail, long-term care and hospital pharmacy, and are therefore able to provide realistic, applicable instruction. Experienced pharmacy technicians from UTMB-Galveston and HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland also teach in the sterile compounding and institutional pharmacy courses.

To that end, Homburg has had the opportunity to develop ongoing relationships with local industry partners who have grown to trust her work with the program. Through that trust, students graduating from the program continually gain meaningful employment in the field.

“The prospects for employment within pharmacy tech is increasing at a rate of 21% from 2016 to 2026,” Homburg explained. “My students are able to find jobs. There’s plenty of jobs out there. Our local community really supports our students. They seek our students. They think a lot of our students.”

And that’s the COM difference.

“I actually gauge my success on their success. So, I genuinely want to see my students do well.”



Reasons to Choose the COM Pharmacy Technician Program

- Ranked #1 Pharmacy Technician Program in Texas and #20 in the nation by Pharmacy Technician Guide
- Accredited by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists
- 83% COM certification exam pass rate vs. 72% national average in 2020
- Internship opportunities at renowned facilities including UTMB-Galveston, HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland and Walgreen Pharmacies



Scan the QR code to learn more or email Lisa Homburg:

lhomburg@com.edu

Making a Difference

BEYOND THE POND



ABOVE: Sean Skipworth

Finding Purpose in Politics

If you have a question about politics and government, chances are that College of the Mainland (COM) Assistant Professor of Government Sean Skipworth has the answer. Known for sparking engaging conversations in the classroom, Skipworth exemplifies what it means to lead with passion. And that passion is soaring to new heights as he takes on his new role as mayor of the City of Dickinson.

Whether in the classroom or at city hall, Skipworth strives to cultivate a high quality of life for the community he so passionately serves. And his hands-on approach to civic engagement is allowing him to do just that.

“At the end of the day, it’s just really getting out there, showing energy, showing that you care, showing passion,” Skipworth explained. “But more important is having the self-confidence to take a leap to do that and try to make the community a better place.”

After being sworn in as mayor in January 2021, Skipworth hit the ground running. A trusted leader and educator, Skipworth is a true

champion for the community. Through the diverse network of people, resources and industries in the region, Skipworth foresees a bright future ahead for Dickinson.

“Whenever you’re talking about a community and attracting residents and growing revenue and things like that, you’ve got to have a workforce to do that,” Skipworth said. “You want to have good

income levels for your community. You want people to be upwardly mobile. It’s better for everybody. The quality of life for people is better. The maintenance of homes is better. Property values are better. Everything’s really better.”

While hurricane recovery and economic sustainability are at the forefront of his priorities, one of Skipworth’s overarching objectives is to continue nurturing a desirable and fulfilling lifestyle for citizens. To that end, Skipworth sees the relationship between COM and the Dickinson community as a vital asset to residents in more ways than one.



ABOVE: Dedrick Johnson

Forging a New Path Through PTEC

Texas City Mayor Dedrick Johnson could be described as a renaissance man.

The College of the Mainland (COM) alum and former Texas City Independent School District educator has served in a variety of civic leadership capacities including Texas City commissioner, church minister, NAACP member and founder of leadership and special projects

consulting group, Dedrick Johnson Productions. But perhaps a lesser-known part of his story is his unique transition into the petrochemical industry, where he currently serves as a process technician at the Marathon Petroleum Corporation.

Upon graduating from Texas City High School, Johnson went on to earn a Bachelor of Journalism in Public Relations at the University of Texas at Austin. After returning home to Texas City, he fell in love with education, and soon thereafter began his 15-year career as a school teacher. Though as fate would have it, he took a detour from his teaching profession after sparking an interest in working for industry. This led him to the COM Process Technology (PTEC) program.

“My educational experience was unique in the sense that most people go off to the local community college as a launching pad, but I had already begun a career and completed my degree at a four-year university,” Johnson said. “I found myself being interested in one of the programs that College of the Mainland had, and that was the Process Technology program, so I went back to school.”

Johnson graduated in 2011 with an Associate of Applied Science in Petrochemical Process Technology and is now a proud COM alum who credits the college for equipping him with the knowledge and training needed to thrive in the region’s robust petrochemical industry.

COM’s PTEC program, which is the first in the nation to offer an associate degree, offered Johnson innovative learning opportunities through hands-on lab and classroom instruction. Here, he trained alongside industry professionals which allowed him to ultimately transition into the new and fulfilling career path that he loves today.



To read Sean and Dedrick’s full stories, visit:
horizons.com.edu

ATTEND COLLEGE WITH TUITION & FEES COVERED

The Opening Doors Promise Scholarship

The Opening Doors Promise Scholarship allows local high school seniors of the Class of 2021, AND select graduates of the Class of 2020, (high school equivalency, public, private, home or charter schools) to attend College of the Mainland with all tuition and fees covered for Fall 2021.

Great News! An Extension to Apply for the Graduating Class of 2020

This last year has presented personal and financial challenges for many. At COM, we recognize that impacts from COVID-19 may have made access to education for our students difficult, if not impossible, throughout the last year. Therefore, all graduates from the Class of 2020 who lived in Texas City, La Marque or Hitchcock are eligible to participate in this year's 2021 Opening Doors Promise Program.

Participating Communities

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

IT ONLY TAKES 3 SIMPLE STEPS!

- ★ **STEP 1:**
Apply to COM
- ★ **STEP 2:**
Apply for Financial Aid
- ★ **STEP 3:**
Submit Everything by July 1, 2021

DON'T WAIT!

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



Scan the QR code to unlock your promising future today!

Or visit com.edu/promise

TH ERED

Para obtener más información,
vaya a COM.EDU/PROMESA

For more information, contact:

Monique Wylie
Financial Aid Scholarship Specialist
409-933-8144
mwylie1@com.edu

Thank You to Our Promise Donors:

- Albrecht Incorporated
- AMOCO Federal Credit Union
- Anonymous
- Associated Credit Union of Texas
- Austin Industrial
- Byrne Metals
- CBRE/Heery
- City of Santa Fe
- City of Texas City Economic Development Corp.
- Dally & Associates, Inc.
- Dickinson Management District No. 1
- Duke Glass, Inc.
- Hitchcock Industrial Development Corporation
- Hitchcock ISD Education Foundation, Inc.
- Hometown Bank
- Jack Click
- Karsten Interior Services, L.P.
- Kathleen Cailloux Foundation
- La Marque Lions Club
- L. S. Decker, Inc.
- MGC, Inc.
- Milestone Metals, Inc.
- Mitchell Chuoke Plumbing, Inc.
- Moody National Bank, Galveston
- PBK, Inc.
- Pieper-Houston Electric L.P.
- Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation
- Sigma Marble & Granite - Houston Inc.
- Stewart Builders, Inc.
- Texas Book Company
- Way Engineering LTD.
- William and Genevieve McGarvey

MAKING DREAMS A REALITY:

RUSTIN HARA'S STORY

FOR RUSTIN HARA, PURSUING A CAREER IN THE FAST-GROWING AND FINANCIALLY REWARDING PETROCHEMICAL FIELD WAS A BIG MOTIVATOR FOR HIM WHEN CONSIDERING HIS FUTURE. WHEN IT CAME TO DECIDING THE BEST PATH TO GET HIM THERE, FINANCES WERE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR INFLUENCING HIS DECISION.

LEFT:
Rustin Hara shown
with parents

A 2020 Texas City High School graduate, Rustin is one of 148 College of the Mainland students embarking on a tuition-free higher education journey through the Opening Doors Promise Scholarship. The scholarship, which covers the cost of tuition and fees for eligible local high school graduates pursuing full-time studies, allows participating students to earn an associate degree or complete a workforce training certificate program at COM.

"I'm just really thankful for all the people who make kids' lives easier because college is hard for a lot of people to pay for, and I'm really appreciative."

Rustin, who is now studying Process Technology (PTECH) at COM, says he learned about Promise while in high school and through his studies in the Collegiate High School program. "I was blessed with getting a discounted price," he explains. "It helped go along with the cycle of being blessed to have this opportunity."

To read Rustin's full story, visit:
horizons.com.edu



See What our Donors are Saying

TEXAS CITY

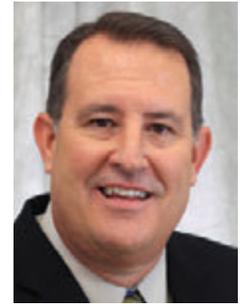
“College of the Mainland provides immensely important opportunities for higher education and vocational training, thus serving a critical need for our community. The Texas City Economic Development Corporation’s partnership with COM will enhance these opportunities by making education and workforce training available to local residents at little to no cost. This worthy project will ensure that our citizens are well-positioned to fill the jobs needed to bolster our local economy and continue the development of a thriving, vibrant community.”



Mark E. Ciavaglia
Chairperson, Texas City Economic Development Corporation

HITCHCOCK

“This offers a tremendous opportunity for local students to obtain a high-quality education at no cost. The ability for these students to obtain a degree or workforce training certification provides an advantage for not only their own career opportunities, but the City of Hitchcock as a whole.”



“As a business partner with COM and having a large membership in Hitchcock, it was a natural fit. Being part of a program that allows every Hitchcock student to attend COM tuition free is good for the Credit Union and the community.”

Jack Click
*Board President, Hitchcock Economic Development Corp.
President/CEO, Associated Credit Union of Texas*

LA MARQUE

“This program will encourage students who were unsure about attending college for financial reasons to pursue an associate degree or a workforce training certificate program. What was once just a dream is now becoming a reality thanks to the contributions of our COM communities, and I am proud to be a part of this effort.”



Dr. William (Bill) McGarvey
Member, College of the Mainland Board of Trustees

DICKINSON

“I support the Promise Scholarship because education and training are essential in reducing unemployment and underemployment. Many students have a desire to pursue higher education and finances are the only barrier preventing them from achieving this. The Dickinson Management District is proud to support the program and help students achieve their goals.”



Pastor Johnnie Simpson, Jr.
Vice President, Dickinson Management District No. 1

SANTA FE

“The Promise program plays an important role for the City of Santa Fe and our amazing young adults who graduate from our schools. We want our youth to get the skills needed to have a successful future. I truly support the Promise program and believe every student deserves a chance to continue their education without having a burden of debt that could impact their future.”



Jason Tabor
Mayor, City of Santa Fe

“The Dickinson Management District No. 1 is honored to support the Promise program for our graduating high school students who otherwise may never have an opportunity to pursue higher education or learn a trade. Education for our future citizens will always benefit them and ultimately the City. Sounds like a win-win theory to me.”



Mary Dunbaugh
President, Dickinson Management District No. 1

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

DONORS MAKING

Lifetime donations to the

TEXAS LONE STAR

Level \$5 million and up

- Awaiting gracious donors

TEXAS LONGHORN

Level \$1 million to 4,999,999

- 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
- Shell Oil Company

COWBOY

Level \$100,000 to 249,999

- Frank Webb and June Godard Webb
- Logical Innovations, Inc.
- Marathon Petroleum Co., LP
- Meadows Foundation, Inc.
- The Brown Foundation
- The Carmage and Martha Ann Walls Foundation
- The McDaniel Charitable Foundation

MUSTANG

Level \$50,000 to 99,999

- A.J. and Lynn Amato
- Anonymous Donor
- Anonymous Donor
- Dr. Bill and Mrs. Genevieve McGarvey
- Consulate General of Mexico in Houston
- Dow Chemical
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- Galveston County AFL-CIO
- Joe and Elizabeth Amato
- Rockwell Fund, Inc.
- Smith Barney
- Texas Book Company
- Trinity Lutheran Church La Marque
- Valero Refining

YELLOW ROSE

Level \$25,000 to 49,999

- AMOCO Federal Credit Union
- Carolyn and Oscar Robinson
- City of Santa Fe
- Craig and Melissa Eiland
- COM-Unity
- Consulate General of Mexico in Houston
- Del Papa Distributing Company
- Galveston County Daily News
- Hitchcock Industrial Development Corporation
- HCA Houston Healthcare Mainland
- John P. McGovern Foundation
- Linde
- LyondellBasell Corporation
- Marianne Duncanson
- Matthew and Debra Doyle
- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

College of the Mainland Foundation

YELLOW ROSE (continued)

- Moody Foundation
- North American Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA)
- PBK, Inc.
- Praxair, 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
- Ziegler's Foods

BLUEBONNET

Level \$10,000 to 24,999

- A&A Machine & Fabrication, LLC
- Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
- Associated Credit Union
- Austin Industrial
- Barbara Austin
- Bartlett Cocke General Contractors, LLC
- Bruce Latimer
- Catherine Moran
- CBRE
- Charles T. and Mary Ellen Doyle
- Dr. Glen 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 Sandberg
- Dr. Gary E. and Diane Wilson
- Gary and Catherine Potter

BLUEBONNET (continued)

- Ivan and Linda Langford
- Jack McConnell
- Mayor James and Carol Yarbrough
- Jason and Angie Bass
- Jeanette Godard Robbins
- Dr. Jere Hammer
- John Glowczwski
- Karsten Interior Services, L.P.
- Kathleen Cailloux Foundation
- Ken and Carolyn Adams
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- 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 Pioneer Foundation
- The William Gammon Henry Charitable Trust
- Trevino Group, Inc.
- Twilight & Marc Freedman Foundation

HELP WRITE
100
stories

Are you ready to change a future?

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

RIGHT:
Anna Ramirez
Entrepreneurship

Recipient:
IME Becas Scholarship



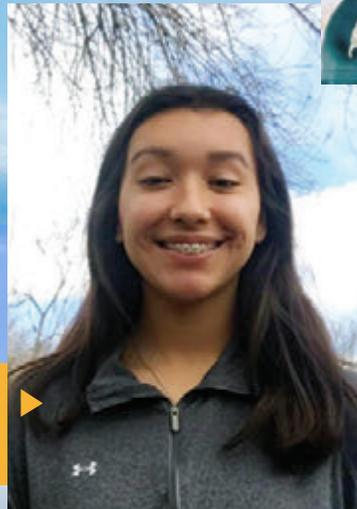
BELOW:
Lindsey Turner
Petrochemical Process
Technology

Recipient:
Air Products Scholarship



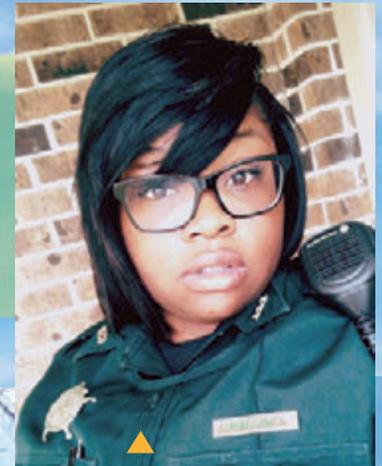
RIGHT:
Alexis Rocha
General Studies

Recipient:
Galveston County Daily
News Scholarship



LEFT:
Trevauzhae Webb
Theatre

Recipient:
Angelo J. and Amelia Amato
Memorial Scholarship



ABOVE:
Jennifer Williams
Petrochemical Process
Technology

RECIPIENT:
Linde - Praxair Women
in Process Technology
Scholarship



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

COM Alumni News

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Maggie Bledsoe

CLASS OF 2020, THEATRE

Attending College of the Mainland as a Theatre major was one of the best decisions I made for my educational career. The professors and directors all represented and effectively taught the importance of professionalism and good work ethic.

With the help of the June Godard Webb Scholarship and William Gammon Henry Charitable Trust Scholarship, I could put more of my time and focus on my educational experience rather than worry about any financial hardships. Knowing my education was valued by not only me, but also my teachers and generous donors, reassured me that I was on the right path.

Currently, I am pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre education at Midwestern State University. College can be extremely difficult, both socially and financially. Receiving a scholarship helped make my experience at COM truly amazing.



Ericka Becerra

CLASS OF 2020, NURSING

As a full-time nursing student, wife, mother and part-time employee, I was not an ordinary college student. I prayed about becoming a nurse and was determined to work hard for this goal. With the support of the Memorial Scholarship, I was soon on the right path to succeed on my nursing journey.

The nursing program at COM prepared me to pass the NCLEX (nursing licensure exam) on my first attempt. I accepted a nursing position right after graduation at the Woman's Hospital of Texas in a Level 4 Neonatal-Intensive Care Unit and am now pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Texas at Arlington. Although COVID has brought times of uncertainty, it has also reinforced why I chose nursing.

I am beyond thankful for the scholarship I received and the excellent nursing faculty at COM. They instilled the passion of nursing and the perseverance to continue this journey.

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

STRONGER TOGETHER: OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

While the past year has been nothing short of a whirlwind, our faculty, staff and students have certainly risen to the occasion. Challenged with the uncertainties of shifting to an online instructional platform, College of the Mainland is delivering with ingenuity and a resounding commitment to meet the evolving needs of our students every step of the way.



Response to COVID

LEARNING IN A NEW VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT



Shifted all instruction online following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020



Transitioned nursing instruction to a virtual format including clinical work (Shadow Health & Swift River), exam proctoring and faculty-led simulations

CARES ACT FUNDING



Foundation was awarded almost \$1 million in emergency aid through the CARES Act Fund for COVID-19 relief to students on campus



In the spring, summer and fall of 2020, 944 students received \$650,000 in aid

TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

- COM has developed a laptop checkout system for students in our library similar in format to a book checkout. Since March 2020, 87 college-issued laptops have been issued to students in need.
- Transitioned all Tutoring Center tutorials online within days (March 2020); Expanded online tutorials to include science, Process Technology, basic computer assistance (MS, Blackboard and other online platforms) and computer programming
- Created an environment to give students remote access to a virtual Windows 10 desktop

ONLINE STUDENT SUPPORTS

- Fully implemented virtual student services model, allowing students to obtain all support services remotely including virtual tutoring and library support
- Implemented mass student outreach, making students aware of available tutoring services and how to access those services. Phone calls and emails were attempted to all students enrolled at COM during the beginning and mid-point of every semester since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking Forward

While we transition some of our classes back to an in-person environment, COM continues to offer many online and hybrid instructional options to ensure that we provide a safe and successful learning experience for our students during this unique time.



Scan the QR code to
start your journey to
a rewarding future!

Or visit com.edu/info

A PATH FORWARD...

New STEAM Building
Grand Opening
April 30, 2021



These are very exciting times for College of the Mainland (COM). Through our long-range master plan, we have developed several new academic programs that respond directly to Galveston County's workforce demands and will positively impact our local economy. Through voter approval of our 2018 bond measure, we are putting the final touches on several new facilities at our main campus. The opportunities and enhancements this long-range plan provides will empower our students and the community now and for decades to come.

COMPASS2025.COM

2021
COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND
REFINANCE PROPOSITION

Refinancing will lower taxes and return savings to the taxpayers.

To continue effectively serving the growing needs of our students and communities, this election gives COM an opportunity to take advantage of historically low interest rates by refinancing a college bond – **saving taxpayers more than \$4.3 million.**

An Important Election...

VOTE EARLY: APRIL 19-27 | ELECTION: MAY 1

Historically Low Interest Rates
+ Refinancing

LOWER TAXES

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