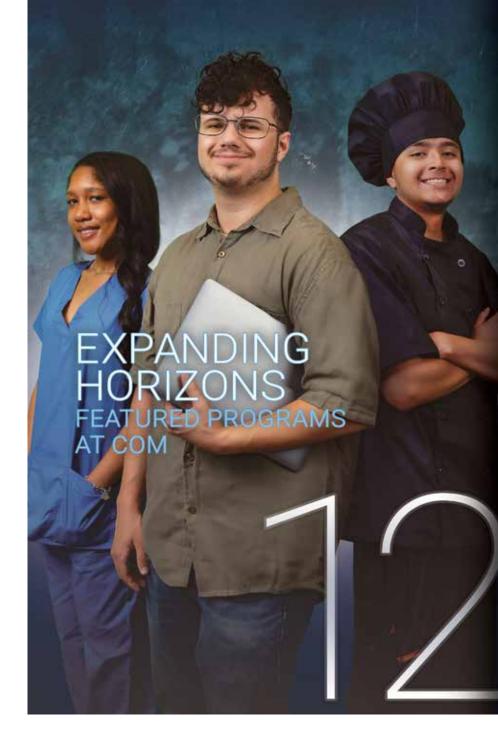


2024 SUMMER & FALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN VISIT COM.EDU/START

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President, Dr. Warren Nichols Executive VP for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer VP for Academic Affairs, Dr. Heather Rhodes VP for Fiscal Affairs, Dr. David Wesse 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.

Message from the President

At College of the Mainland, we believe that education is not just about earning a credential. It's about equipping students with the knowledge, skills and support they may need to overcome obstacles and reach their academic and career goals. That's what truly makes COM a special place. Here, we know that these supports play a pivotal role in fostering student success by providing the necessary resources, guidance and encouragement to help students thrive in the classroom and beyond. Needless to say, I'm proud of the work that we've done and continue to do to implement a variety of strategies to further enhance the student experience in new and innovative ways.

COM has merged the Instructional and Student Services divisions into the newly formed Division of Academic and Student Affairs (DASA). By merging the two divisions, we see an opportunity to take on a more holistic approach to the student experience by connecting every touchpoint from academics and support services. This bold move will foster a more integrated and supportive environment for our students, ensuring that they receive comprehensive assistance and guidance along every step of their academic journey. With the Division of Academic and Student Affairs in place, we look forward to providing an enriching experience that empowers students to reach their full potential.

Along those lines, COM is introducing a new learning model to help students balance their educational and life commitments through our new 8-week session format beginning Fall 2024. On track with national learning trends, the 8-Week Advantage offers huge benefits to students including increased focus on fewer subjects, boosted momentum to keep students motivated, more balance and flexibility and the ability to more easily attain full-time status.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), I'm proud to share that COM applied for, and received, three concurrent U.S. Department of Education Title V grants in support of expanded support opportunities for underrepresented students. Totaling \$9 million, the five-year funding will further propel the College's ongoing commitment to serving our diverse student populations

through innovative strategies to improve success rates, increase persistence and provide better outcomes for students.

As you can see, this is an exciting time to be a student at College of the Mainland, and this excitement will be soaring to new heights with the passing of our 2023 general obligation bond. With our new bond comes endless new opportunities to further expand and grow our facilities and programming to better serve the growing needs of our students. I invite you to visit **compass2025. com** for regular bond updates.

Several new programs have recently launched or are on the horizon. The College has expanded its allied health offerings to include Radiology and Dental Hygiene programs. Additionally, we recently launched our first fully endowed program, the Mitchell Chuoke Jr. Plumbing Program, to ensure that COM students are ready to fulfill jobs in the fast-growing plumbing industry. We are also thrilled to witness the expansion of our academic offerings, with programs such as Computer Numerical Control (CNC), Culinary Arts and Robotic Process Automation (RPA), aimed at preparing COM students for promising career opportunities in diverse and thriving industries.

As you enjoy this issue of Horizons, I hope that this work inspires you just as much as it inspires me. By equipping students with a comprehensive toolkit for success, they are undoubtedly empowered to overcome obstacles, stay engaged in their education and achieve their goals.

Looking toward the future, the possibilities are truly endless as we continue our work to champion student success and create a brighter future for our community.

Sincerely,

ann Wight

Dr. Warren Nichols President, College of the Mainland



College of the Mainland (COM) has been selected for its third U.S. Department of Education Title V grant, bringing the combined grant total to \$9 million. The latest grant awarded will fund the innovative project, "Semillas: Planting the Seeds for a Brighter Tomorrow," aimed at enhancing educational outcomes for underrepresented students and strengthening student support services.

"Receiving three concurrent Title V grants enables College of the Mainland to provide comprehensive support to our students academically and through various student services, positioning us for significant community growth and progress in the next five years," said COM Title V Director, Deborah Fregia.

COM plays a pivotal role in the community by providing education and opportunities to students pursuing certificates, associate degrees, transfer credits and a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. As a proud Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), COM serves a diverse student body, with 36 percent of its students identifying as Hispanic.

The Semillas project has set forth two primary goals:

GOAL 1: INCREASE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT OF MATH COREQUISITE STUDENTS

Semillas is dedicated to transforming institutional services to enhance success rates and retention among underrepresented students, ensuring they have a strong start to their academic journeys.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

This grant also enables COM to strengthen student support services surrounding academic transfer students and student resource needs to increase educational outcomes and post-graduation success and transfer rates.

The project will leverage the following proven and promising strategies to achieve its goals:

- Establishment of a new math lab
- Increased contact hours for corequisite math students
- Provision of math software/technology at no cost to students
- Implementation of success coaching programs
- Development of new articulation agreements
- Appointment of a student resource coordinator
- Creation of a new graduation and transfer coordinator role

The funding provided through the Title V grant will be instrumental in implementing these strategies, ultimately leading to improved success rates, higher persistence and better overall outcomes for COM students.



INTRODUCING

THE COM

B-ULEK ADVANTAGE

Learning designed for student success.

We believe you are meant to be bold and fly high.

But we get it, life happens—work, family responsibilities and unforeseen circumstances. Navigating obstacles while trying to take multiple courses can quickly derail an entire 16-week semester.

This is where the COM 8-week Advantage can help! Our 8-week sessions allow students to balance their educational and life commitments. Students take half the courses they would during a 16-week semester, which means if an unforeseen circumstance happens, the entire semester is not lost. And with multiple start dates throughout the year, students can easily re-enroll in the next session.

The Benefits are HUGE!

Studies show the benefits of 8-week sessions are tremendous compared to the traditional 16-week format.

Top Four Benefits of the COM 8-Week Advantage



FOCUS

Avoid burnout, feeling overwhelmed and trying to juggle multiple subjects and assignments. Students will be able to focus on fewer subjects and complete the same number of hours they would over a 16-week semester.



MOMENTUM

Students are more likely to stay on track, pass their courses and keep going until graduation. Research across the country clearly shows increased graduation rates among students taking 8-week sessions.



FLEXIBILITY

Students will have more balance and flexibility with managing life responsibilities while still prioritizing their education.



STATUS

Part-time students can become fulltime by taking two courses during each 8-week session, which provides numerous benefits from financial aid to providing proof of insurance and more.

What About Financial Aid?

With this new 8-week format, students will still be able to receive financial aid like they do with 16-week semesters. The only change will be with the disbursement schedules. Registration will work the same way as with 16-week semesters. Students will receive financial aid disbursements to cover each session for which they have registered.

Students will still be able to complete the same number of hours across two, 8-week sessions as they would throughout a 16-week semester.

What's even better is that parttime students will have the ability to become full-time by simply taking two courses during each 8-week session, which provides numerous benefits for those requiring financial aid.

To learn more, visit: com.edu/academics/8week.



HORIZONS: FEATURED PRO

In response to our communities' growing and expansive learning needs, College of the Mainland is prioritizing innovative learning options to effectively prepare the workforce of the future.

NEW! CNC

NEW! CULINARY

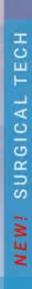
NEW! DENTAL

GRAMS AT COM

NEW! RAD TECH

NEW! PLUMBING

FEATURED! GRAPHIC ARTS



For every student looking to advance their education, from pursuing high school equivalency, workforce education, transferring to a four-year university or looking to add to their existing education, COM is committed to providing an open and accessible experience for all.

Check out some of our featured programs at COM!

NEW! Computer Numerical Control (CNC)

Launching Summer 2024

Tuition-free program

CNC is the automated control of machining tools and 3D printers by means of computer programs and commands. In CNC systems, computers play a crucial role in controlling and managing the operations of machine tools. This program is funded by the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Grant.

CNC technology is widely used across various industries for automated precision machining and manufacturing processes.

CNC plays a significant role in diverse industries such as:

- Aerospace to manufacture components for aircraft and spacecraft, including complex and precision parts.
- Automotive machining in the production of automotive components, such as engine parts, transmission components and body parts.
- Medical device manufacturing to produce intricate and precise components for medical devices and equipment.
- Oil and gas to manufacture components for the oil and gas industry, such as valves, pumps and drilling equipment.



Visit com.edu/ce/industrial-craft/cnc-machinist.html to learn more.





NEW! Culinary Arts Launching Fall 2024

Are you passionate about the art of cooking? Ready to turn your love for food into a rewarding career? Look no further! COM's new Culinary Arts program offers a delectable blend of hands-on experience, expert instruction, and real-world skills to ignite your culinary passion and prepare you for success in the fast-growing industry.

Whether your dream is to open your own restaurant, work in a top-tier kitchen, or explore culinary entrepreneurship, our program equips you with the tools to succeed. Gain insight into the latest culinary trends and techniques, staying ahead of the curve in this dynamic and evolving field. Roll up your sleeves and get cooking from day one with our immersive, hands-on curriculum. Put your skills to the test in a real-world kitchen environment, preparing you for the fast-paced demands of professional culinary settings. Collaborate with fellow aspiring chefs, fostering a supportive community dedicated to culinary excellence. Ignite your passion for food and turn your culinary dreams into reality with our Culinary Arts program. Enroll today and savor the journey to culinary greatness!



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

NEW! Dental Hygiene Launching Fall 2024

COM's Dental Hygiene program was designed to educate future dental hygienists to address the oral health needs of our diverse community.

Dental hygienists are the preventative specialists of the dental field. They examine patients for signs of oral diseases, such as gingivitis and provide patient care, including taking x-rays, scaling and oral hygiene instruction.

Qualities of individuals who seek to enter the field of dental hygiene typically include having a caring nature, wanting to help others and working collaboratively to improve the oral and overall health of the patients they serve. Skills utilized daily by dental hygienists include manual dexterity, detailed assessment, interpersonal communication and critical thinking.

Visit com.edu/academics/ dentalhygiene to learn more.





NEW! Plumbing Pre-Apprenticeship Newly Launched!

Tuition-free program

The Mitchell Chuoke Jr. Plumbing certificate is a pre-apprenticeship program and will provide individuals with the entry-level knowledge and skills to pursue an industry apprenticeship. This 80-hour program will cover residential and commercial aspects of the plumbing trade, emphasizing safety at no cost to the student. The program is generously funded by the Mitchell Chuoke Jr. Endowment and does require an application.

Upon completion of the pre-apprenticeship at COM, two pathways are available for consideration for students pursuing a career in the plumbing industry. Both union and non-union plumbing apprenticeships offer a combination of classroom instruction, onthe-job training, and 4,000 hours of required field experience to sit for the Tradesman Exam with the Texas State Board of Plumbing examiners. The 80-hour pre-apprenticeship training from COM will provide an advantage for all applicants.

With an endowment pledge of \$1.3 million to offer the program tuition-free, nearly half of this amount has already been raised. Thanks to the generous donations from community supporters Charles and Mary Ellen Doyle, Matt and Debra Doyle, the Patrick F. Doyle family, the Lawrence J. Del Papa family, Joe and Ellen Chuoke, Texas First Bank, Beau and Erin Yarbrough, and others, the program is set to be endowed, guaranteeing it will remain tuition-free for students.



To learn more, visit com.edu/ce/industrial-craft/plumbing-pre-apprenticeship.html.

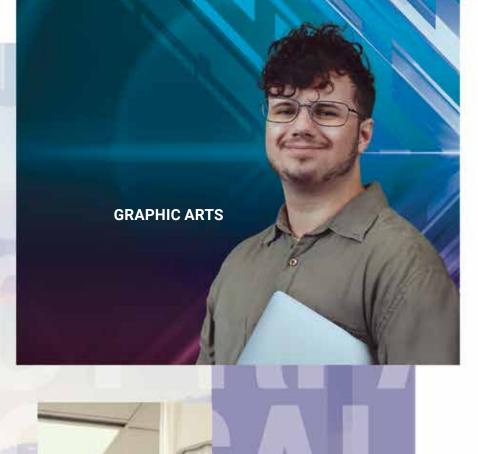
NEW! Radiologic Technology Newly Launched!

The COM Radiologic Technology program prepares students for entry-level careers in the medical field. The program strives to provide the community with competent radiologic technologists who will demonstrate professionalism and clinical competency while providing compassionate and respectful care. The program is academically rigorous in anatomy, patient positioning, examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety, radiation protection, patient care and communication skills.

A radiographer is a health care professional who takes images of the human body and assists physicians known as radiologists in interpreting the images to make a diagnosis of the patient's condition. Radiographers may be employed in hospitals, clinics, urgent care







centers, mobile radiographic units and surgery centers.



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

FEATURED! Graphic Arts

Set your sights on a rewarding future in the vibrant world of graphic arts. Start your transformative journey with our immersive program, where students delve into the intricacies of professional design practices, mastering everything from digital photo manipulation and web design to typography and computer illustration. Guided by experienced instructors, students harness the power of industry-standard hardware and software to bring their creative visions to life.

Through hands-on projects including logos, business packages, brochures, newsletters, billboards and websites, students craft a robust portfolio

that reflects their unique talents and ambitions.



Learn more at, com.edu/academics/graphic-arts.

NEW! Surgical Technology Launching Fall 2025

Unlock your potential with our Surgical Technology program!

Are you ready to play a pivotal role in the dynamic world of health care? Dive into the fast-paced environment of the operating room and become a vital member of the surgical team as you master the intricate techniques and best practices essential for surgical interventions.









COM 2023 BOND TIMELINE



Design work continues on the Library Classroom Building (LCB), Public Safety Careers (PSC) Building, Welding and Industrial Education Building, Corporate & Continuing Education Center (CCEC), Parking Lots A, B and C projects.

February 2024

During the February 26, 2024 regular BOT meeting, trustees approved:

- The design of Parking Lots A, B, and C and the replacement of the underground fire line and water line utilities
- The schematic design for the Corporate & Continuing Education Center project
- The design development for the Public Safety Careers Building project
- Cannon Design Furniture Design Studio for furniture planning services for the Bond 2023 projects

March 2024

During the March 27, 2024 regular BOT meeting, trustees approved the schematic design for the Library Classroom Building.

Design phase completed for the Welding and Industrial Education Building and Parking Lots A, B and C.



April 2024

At the April 22, 2024 regular BOT meeting, trustees approved:

- The design development for the Corporate & Continuing Education Center
- The final construction documents for the Welding Building addition/renovation & Industrial Education Building renovation

May 2024

At the May 29, 2024 regular BOT meeting, trustees approved:

- Awarding the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for construction services to Pogue Construction Company, LP for the Welding Building, Industrial Education Building, Physical Education Racquetball Court, Doyle Family Administration Building VP Suite, Shell Space and Marketing Suite Renovation projects
- Broaddus Construction, LLC for construction services for Parking Lots A, B, C and underground utilities

All projects are on schedule.

2023 Bond Construction Progress

As of June 7, 2024

- **DESIGN PHASE** New Library/Classroom Building
- DESIGN PHASE New Corporate & Continuing Education Center
- DESIGN PHASE New Public Safety Careers Building
- **DESIGN PHASE COMPLETED** Welding Building and Industrial Education Building addition/renovation

Infrastructure Upgrades and Campus Improvements

- **DESIGN PHASE COMPLETED** Parking Lots A, B and C
- CONCEPTUAL DESIGN Commons and Site Lighting



STUDENT CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

The college experience isn't complete without campus involvement! Student Life at College of the Mainland provides various opportunities to get involved and connected with peers on campus through clubs and organizations. From leadership to leisure, there are plenty of clubs and organizations to make the most of your time at COM.

LEADERSHIP

Graduating in Fall 2024 from COM's Collegiate High School with an associate degree, Adrian Castaneda was a student on campus looking to grow and take advantage of the resources and opportunities around him. Getting involved with several clubs and organizations, Adrian was the president of the Minority Men for Excellence (MM4E) club, the Public Relations Officer for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society – Sigma Theta Chapter and a Presidential Ambassador.

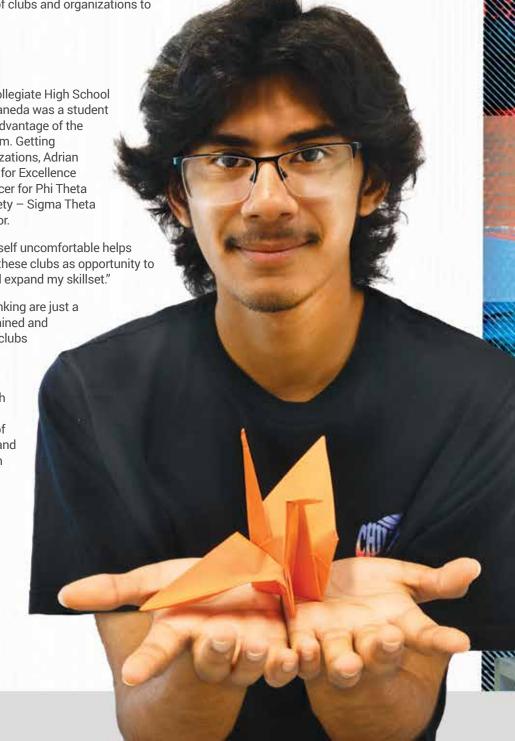
"Being around people and making yourself uncomfortable helps you improve," said Adrian. "I looked at these clubs as opportunity to be uncomfortable, sharpen myself and expand my skillset."

Networking, leadership and critical thinking are just a few of the many skills that can be obtained and developed by participating in campus clubs and organizations.

"Writing has become a lot easier," said Adrian. "I'm able to interpret things with a more mature mindset and look from a different angle." "I believe a big part of that is speaking with different people and adopting different points of views from mentors and people I've met through the clubs."

CULTURE

Celebrating cultures and heritage is a key way to ensure that representation and inclusivity are happening on campus. Learning and exploring different cultures other than our



Juvoni Lozano



own helps to create understanding and connection with one another inside and outside the classroom.

Coming from a Latino household and background, Collegiate High school student Juvoni Lozano is helping spread the cultural significance and importance of a culture other than his own in his role as the president of the Japanese Culture Club (JCC). From setting up hands-on activities like origami, to practicing cultural traditions like KFC Christmas, the JCC is creating a space for students to come together and learn about the Japanese culture.

"We're human and our cultures, languages and experiences all tie together," said Juvoni.

"Joining a club helps you get that life experience so you can be better off in the future."

LEISURE

Taking the time out to explore your interests and hobbies is important. Leisure clubs provide an outlet to de-stress and connect with those that have similar interests.

Reyna Montalvo is a graphic design major and the president of the COM Art Club. Art majors, art enthusiast and those looking to be creative gather to participate in various art activities including online art games and creating custom trading cards.

"It's a very chill and relaxing environment; a safe space," said Reyna. "I was very introverted before I joined art club, and now I've opened up."

Finding those with similar interests help create not only a connection with peers and the campus but a better college experience as a whole.

"Joining a club definitely helps you expand your horizons."



Tired of her job as a cashier, Marissa Cermeno wanted more than just change; she wanted a challenge. Wanting to experience and learn something new every day, Marissa decided to pursue a career in firefighting and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). A career typically thought of as a "man's job," Marissa is defying stereotypes and aiding in the growth of women in firefighting.

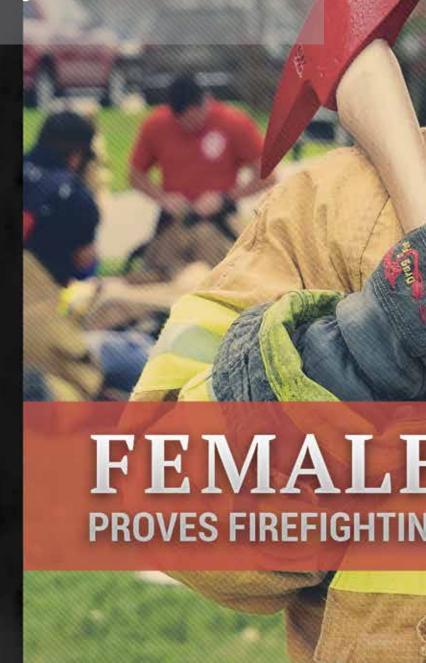
"Every day you're just at the register, getting groceries, greeting customers; I wanted something different every day," said Marissa. "Firefighting and EMS are different every day, and you don't know what you're going to face."

What began with an interest in EMS and emergency medicine, grew into an infatuation with firefighting. With a career change in mind, Marissa began to take more notice of female firefighters. From characters on TV shows to real-life female firefighters on TikTok advocating for the career, the seed was planted in her mind to pursue firefighting.

"I saw that not a lot of females do it," said Marissa. "It was a challenge and something I was ready to go for."

After discovering College of the Mainland's (COM) fire technology program, Marissa quickly enrolled. It was then that Marissa saw first-hand the lack of women in firefighting, when she was the only female cadet in her fire academy class.

"It was weird at first, but then I got to know everybody and got used to it. We treated each other like family."





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- · HCÁ Houston Healthcare Mainland

FFERENCE

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BLUEBONNET (continued)

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- Dr. Yolanda Waters and Mr. Alan Waters

OPENING DOORS PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP



CLASS OF

NO TUITION. LIKE, FOR REAL.

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 in 2020, the scholarship has enrolled almost 800 new Promise students representing the cities within COM's taxing district. Check out what our students are saying about taking their first steps toward a promising tomorrow.



McKinsey Criss

Santa Fe High School, Class of 2023

"I was so grateful and overjoyed to receive the Promise scholarship. Paying for college has always been a worry of mine, especially coming from a lower middle-class family. This is just one less burden I must carry on my educational journey. If I hadn't received it, I wouldn't even be able to pursue my basics, let alone a four-year degree eventually."



Genesis Salazar

Dickinson High School, Class of 2022

"What I like about the scholarship is that it's a tool that will be there for you whenever you need help financially. It will help with your classes, your textbooks, and it will take some stress off your shoulders. Obtaining my associate degree also helped me complete my prerequisites for nursing school and with the Promise scholarship, I have achieved that."

The COM Opening Doors Promise Scholarship covers 100 percent of tuition and fees for up to two years for eligible graduating high school students who are looking to pursue full-time studies at COM. Participating students can earn an associate degree or complete a workforce training certificate program.

ELIGIBILITY

- Class of 2024 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



Meet with a COM enrollment coach at your high school today. **Visit com.edu/promise to learn more.**

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 COM.EDU/PROMESA.



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