

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Approves University's Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering Classes at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will start in fall 2009

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) today (Thursday, April 30) approved a new bachelor of science in mechanical engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

THECB approval was the final step in creating the new program which will offer classes in fall 2009. The curriculum will specialize in issues related to the University's location on the Gulf of Mexico, including coastal observation systems, ships, offshore platforms, offshore wind turbines and seafloor mapping.

“This is an important milestone for both Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and the community,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “As the sixth-largest seaport in the United States, Corpus Christi needs highly-qualified mechanical engineering graduates to meet the employment needs of existing businesses. This new program will also help attract new engineering-related businesses that will strengthen the Coastal Bend economy.”

Because the University already offers a mechanical engineering technology degree, existing laboratory space can be expanded to meet immediate needs, Killebrew added. However, additional unrestricted and endowed funds will be necessary for scholarships, faculty, and research opportunities.

The program has received strong backing from the business community which is striving to meet a challenge goal of \$3 million, including \$1 million from Corpus Christi's economic development sales tax.

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Since the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in January, the University has received hundreds of inquiries from prospective students and many have already made application to the 129 semester hour program.

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