

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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American Bank Gives a \$100,000 Commitment to Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas –American Bank has committed \$100,000 paid over four years toward scholarships for the upcoming bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

American Bank officials were on campus today (Monday, Feb. 23) to announce the creation of the American Bank Endowed Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering. The new Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi awaits final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“The mechanical engineering program opens opportunities to produce graduates who can satisfy significant job opportunities in Corpus Christi,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “American Bank is among Corpus Christi’s economic leaders, and the University is grateful for their support.”

Dollars from American Bank’s endowment are designated for scholarships, which will be awarded to students who meet selection criteria.

“This gift is among the ways we can help increase job development in the Coastal Bend,” said Al Jones, American Bank president and chief executive officer. “Providing these funds to the mechanical engineering program is a vital part of Corpus Christi’s growth.”

American Bank, which opened its doors to its first bank in 1970 in Corpus Christi, has expanded to 13 offices in six Texas cities. Last quarter, American Bank’s assets totaled more than \$800 million.

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Several area businesses have joined the City of Corpus Christi and Port of Corpus Christi in support of having a mechanical engineering degree program at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The University currently offers the mechanical engineering technology degree and has labs that can be adapted for the new curriculum. Last fall a \$1 million pledge was made by the city for the program.

Contributions from several corporations and individuals will be announced in upcoming weeks.

President Killebrew said that such funds are necessary to create a mechanical engineering program that meets the high expectations of both the University and the employers who seek its graduates. He added that Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has received hundreds of inquiries from prospective students seeking mechanical engineering at the campus, and many have already made application to the new degree program.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at its January meeting, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board could give final approval by April. The University is planning for the first classes to begin in fall 2009.

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