

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

*The Island University*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **IBC Bank Gives \$30,000 Commitment to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Mechanical Engineering Program**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – IBC Bank has committed \$30,000 toward the upcoming bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

IBC Bank officials were on campus today (Friday, March 6) to announce the donation. 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.

“Local industries will have opportunities to recruit graduates from our mechanical engineering program, providing increased advantages for the city's economic growth,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “The University is grateful for IBC Bank's contribution and support in this endeavor.”

Establishing a mechanical engineering degree program will require unrestricted and endowed funds for expanded laboratory space, additional faculty, research opportunities, and scholarships, Killebrew said.

“IBC Bank's donation toward the upcoming mechanical engineering program at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi symbolizes our continued commitment to our community and to the future of our students,” said CEO and President Harold Shockley Jr. “We strongly support this program and look forward to the many opportunities that it will provide our community.”

IBC Bank, founded in 1966 to meet the small business needs of Laredo, Texas, today serves as the flagship bank of International Bancshares Corporation. IBC currently

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serves 101 communities throughout Texas and Oklahoma with 265 branches and 420 ATMs. Since its opening, IBC has grown from less than \$1 million in assets to more than \$12.4 billion.

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.

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. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board could give final approval by April, clearing the way for the first classes to begin as early as fall 2009.

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