

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: May 28, 2009**

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## **Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Mechanical Engineering Gets Boost from CITGO Petroleum \$150,000 Grant**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – CITGO Petroleum Corporation announced today (Thursday, May 28) their commitment of \$150,000 to support the new mechanical engineering degree program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

With this donation, the Corpus Christi community has met the challenge goal of \$3 million requested by legislative leaders for the mechanical engineering program.

CITGO Petroleum officials were on campus to make the announcement of support for the mechanical engineering program, which received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board April 30. Classes begin this fall.

“CITGO Petroleum is among the major employers in Corpus Christi, and they have an investment in educational programs that can ensure a resource of highly skilled engineers,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “We hope that as our mechanical engineering program grows, we can supply a steady stream of outstanding graduates who can build their careers within this company.”

CITGO Petroleum’s commitment of \$150,000 will contribute to providing the laboratory space, faculty, research opportunities, and scholarships required for an exceptional program, Killebrew said.

“Our support of the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi mechanical engineering program is another example of CITGO’s commitment to the education of our young people so that they continue to pursue careers while remaining in the Coastal Bend,” said Kevin Ferrall, vice president and general manager of CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery.

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CITGO Petroleum Corporation, a Delaware corporation with headquarters in Houston, Texas, refines, markets and transports gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, lubricants, refined waxes, petrochemicals, and other petroleum-based industrial products. The company has 4,000 employees and is owned by PDV America, Inc. CITGO owns and operates three highly complex crude oil refineries in Lake Charles, La., Lemont, Ill, and Corpus Christi, Texas.

CITGO Petroleum is among several area businesses, organizations and individuals that have stepped forward in recent months to support the new mechanical engineering program at the University. Killebrew said, “The University is honored by the community’s willingness to provide resources that will ensure the program’s success for the students of South Texas.”

He added that the University has received hundreds of inquiries from prospective students about mechanical engineering at the campus, and that, the first class is projected to include 25 to 30 students.

**-A&M-CC-**