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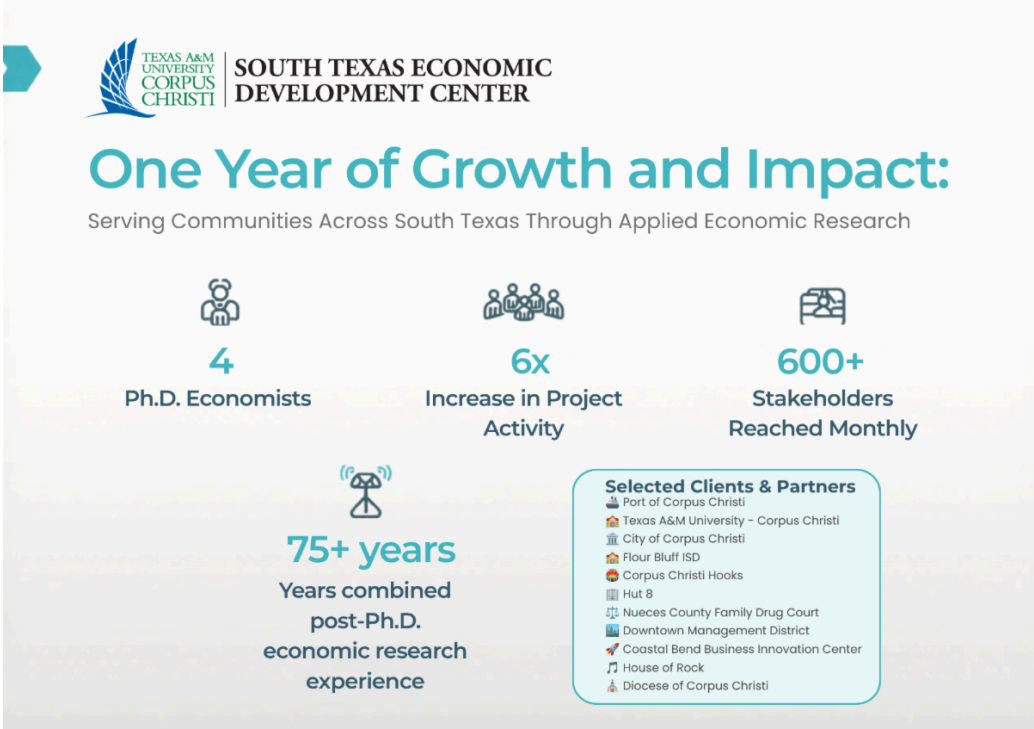
One Year of Growth and Impact at the South Texas Economic Development Center

Reflecting on the First Year and Looking Ahead

June 1, 2026 marks one year since **Dr. Deniz Gevrek, Professor of Economics in the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi,** was appointed **Director of the South Texas Economic Development Center (STEDC)**.

Over the past year, STEDC has undergone significant growth and transformation. The Center grew into a team of four Ph.D. economists, increased project activity nearly six-fold, expanded regional partnerships, resumed publication of the **Coastal Bend Economic Outlook**, and strengthened its role as a trusted source of economic analysis for organizations throughout South Texas.

STEDC also extends its appreciation to former Director Dr. Jim Lee and wishes him a happy and well-deserved retirement.



Connect With STEDC

The South Texas Economic Development Center specializes in economic impact studies, fiscal impact analyses, economic forecasting, survey research, workforce and industry analyses, and custom applied research projects.

Organizations interested in exploring a project or partnership are encouraged to contact:
Dr. Deniz Gevrek, Ph.D.
deniz.gevrek@tamucc.edu
South Texas Economic Development Center
stedc@tamucc.edu

By the Numbers

- Expanded from 1 economist to 4 Ph.D. economists
- More than 75 years of combined post-Ph.D. experience
- Nearly six-fold growth in project activity during the first year
- More than 600 stakeholders reached monthly through the Coastal Bend Economic Outlook
- Dedicated STEDC office suite planned within the O'Connor Building
- Expanding staffing support through the addition of a STEDC economist/Visiting Instructor position

Building Research Capacity

Today, the Center consists of:

- **Dr. Deniz Gevrek**, Director and Professor of Economics
- **Dr. Ahmed Kamara**, Associate Professor of Economics and Department Chair
- **Dr. Veysel Avsar**, Professor of Economics and Associate Dean

- **Dr. David Hudgins**, Professor of Economics

Together, the team provides expertise in economic impact analysis, fiscal impact analysis, economic forecasting, workforce development, survey research, public policy evaluation, and applied econometrics.

Research, Outreach, and Looking Ahead

During the past year, STEDC provided economic impact analysis, forecasting, survey research, and custom applied research services to seaports, school districts, municipalities, economic development organizations, nonprofit organizations, technology firms, and private industry partners throughout South Texas and beyond.

STEDC's visibility also expanded through national conference presentations, service on regional and state initiatives, continued publication of the Coastal Bend Economic Outlook, and **national media recognition through NPR Marketplace**.

Looking ahead, STEDC will relocate to a dedicated suite within the O'Connor Building at the College of Business and expand support through the addition of a STEDC Economist/Visiting Instructor position.

These investments will strengthen the Center's research, teaching, student engagement, and community outreach activities.

Thank you to our clients, partners, community leaders, university administration, faculty, staff, students, and friends of STEDC for your continued support.



On behalf of the STEDC team,

Dr. Deniz Gevrek, Ph.D.
Director, South Texas Economic Development Center
Professor of Economics, College of Business
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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