



**Wharton County
Junior College**

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NEWS RELEASE

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AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

Tenaris teams up with WCJC and the BCCDC to provide new educational opportunities

An agreement between Wharton County Junior College, Tenaris and the Bay City Community Development Corp. will soon provide students with the skills necessary to find gainful employment in a wide range of industries.

The agreement – signed June 5 at WCJC's Bay City Campus – will enable the college to add a Mechanical Technician Certificate and a Manufacturing Technology AAS degree curriculum.

Rudolph Henry, WCJC's Director of Nuclear Power Technology who is serving as the Manufacturing Technology Program Director, said the agreement will be of great benefit to the college and its students.

"This allows WCJC the opportunity to increase the diversity of its course and curriculum offerings which in turn gives students a more diverse complement of skills qualifying (them) to work in different industries ranging from manufacturing, processing, maintenance and power generation," Henry said.

Although Tenaris has partnered with educational institutions previously, this is the first agreement of its kind for the company here in the United States. Founded in Argentina in 1948, Tenaris is currently a worldwide leader in supplying tubing, piping and other products for the oil and gas industry.

Tenaris officials said such a project will have lasting effects on the community.

"The development of the program will provide new education and potential job opportunities for citizens of Matagorda County and aligns with Tenaris' values concerning education and community development," said Germán Curá, President of Tenaris North America. "This is an important step toward building a relationship between TenarisBayCity and Matagorda County. We are not just building a facility; we are committing to be a community partner."

As part of the agreement, Tenaris will contribute \$575,000 to WCJC for specialized equipment that will be housed in a new mechanical lab at the Bay City Campus. Funding for the lab will come from The Bay City Community Development Corp. (BCCDC).

D.C. Dunham, executive director of the BCCDC, said workforce training is a priority for her organization and the agreement with Tenaris and WCJC is a way to continue that focus.

“Lack of funding continues as a major barrier to implementing programs to prepare our future and current workforce for the ever evolving technical demands of the modern workplace,” Dunham said. “We are extremely fortunate to now have another willing and able partner in Tenaris to help us overcome this barrier.”

Dunham said the BCCDC will contribute approximately \$500,000 towards the new mechanical lab building. The organization has previously invested more than \$5 million in the purchase and renovation of the Center for Energy Development, which houses the Bay City WCJC Campus.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan expressed her thanks for such commitment.

“Through such dedicated partners we are able to offer courses and training needed by area industry while providing a great opportunity for area students to obtain the skills necessary to find a good job,” McCrohan said. “We want to say thank you to both Tenaris and the Bay City Community Development Corp. for helping to make this happen.”

Projected timeline for the completion of the new mechanical lab building is Fall 2015. It will contain cutting-edge equipment that will enable students to become well-versed in CNC machining, non-destructive testing, various mechanical skills, hydraulics, oxy-cutting and welding.

Curriculum is being developed through a collaborative effort between WCJC, Tenaris and the BCCDC. Courtney Stevens, Community Relations Coordinator for Tenaris USA, said representatives from TenarisUniversity worked hand-in-hand with Henry to design the coursework. TenarisUniversity is the company’s corporate university, responsible for strategically integrating, aligning and disseminating knowledge and expertise across the company.

The curriculum will focus on various aspects of manufacturing technology, with students able to pursue a one-year Mechanical Technician Certificate or a two-year associate’s degree in one of the following: Manufacturing Technology-Electrical Technician Specialty, Manufacturing Technology-Instrumentation & Control Technician Specialty and Manufacturing Technology-Mechanical Technician Specialty.

The new courses will lead to additional job opportunities, Henry said, requiring experienced faculty to operate the laboratories and teach the classes.

And with more course offerings on the table, “I would anticipate increased enrollment,” he noted.

Tenaris officials said the project will bring something new to the college as well as the community as a whole.

“The mechanical technology program will provide additional skills that are not currently offered in the area, giving students more career opportunities,” Stevens said.

Dunham agrees.

“Our expectations moving forward with Tenaris are to enhance the quality of life for the citizens and grow a sustainable community,” she said, “a place where our children can get an education, good paying jobs and will want to raise their families.”

Tenaris is a leading supplier of tubes and related services for the world’s energy industry and certain other industrial applications. The company’s mission is to deliver value to its customers through product development, manufacturing excellence and supply chain management. Tenaris seeks to minimize risk for its customers and help them reduce costs, increase flexibility and improve time to market. Tenaris employees around the world are committed to continuous improvement by sharing knowledge across a single global organization.

Wharton County Junior College is a Texas public, two-year, comprehensive community college offering a wide range of postsecondary educational programs and services including associate degrees, certificates, continuing education courses, cultural affairs and leisure-time activities for the benefit of the community and a population of students that varies in age, background and ability. WCJC operates campuses in Wharton, Sugar Land, Richmond and Bay City with a student population of around 7,400.

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