

HCC seeks public support for new building at Katy campus

‘This is not your same HCC,’ Hodges tells local steering committee

BY SUSAN ROVEGNO
PUBLISHER

Houston City College (HCC) is asking the Texas legislature for an appropriation of \$50 million to fund a high-tech workforce center at its Katy campus in order to support industry needs including health care, HCC NW President Zachary Hodges told members of the Katy business and community steering committee on September 1. Hodges presented the concept to the steering committee on September 1 at the campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway in Katy.

“We need your help,” Hodges said. “We need to build the support within the community to get that done.” Hodges reminded attendees that HCC is not in the taxing district for Katy ISD. Until that problem can be solved locally, HCC needs state dollars, Hodges said.

HCC Katy — which is at its maximum capacity, Hodges said — currently serves about 4,600 students, with dual credit enrollment reaching approximately 4,000 Katy ISD students. KISD students are earning Level I Certificates in areas such as real estate and medical scribing, while Katy ISD is looking forward to offering associate’s degrees. HCC is also expanding partnerships across the city.

HCC is now different, Hodges said. “Houston City College is not the same as Houston Community College was,” he said. “We are running as fast as we can to keep up with the high-tech industries in Waller County and Harris County in serving their workforce needs.”

Hodges listed many recent accomplishments for the community college system:

- HCC is ranked 32 out of 500 colleges and universities in the National Cyber League’s list of top cybersecurity programs.
- HCC continues to serve as one of three colleges across the nation leading the NSF AI Consortium, NAAIC, to train other colleges to develop AI programming and tools.
- HCC has furthered the partnership with SpaceX to train not only welders, but machinists and CNC operators.
- HCC just finished year one of a two-year \$2 million dollar grant with Google to expand AI training across the region and into K-12 schools.
- This year marks the eight-year partnership with Apple for HCC in which HCC has received grant funding for hardware and software to deliver technology training. This partnership was recently highlighted at the Apple factory’s ribbon cutting in late August.
- Recently HCC held a graduation

HCC INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTER

A NEW MODEL FOR WORKFORCE EDUCATION

DESIGNED LIKE INDUSTRY.
ORGANIZED AROUND INDUSTRY.
BUILT FOR THE FUTURE.

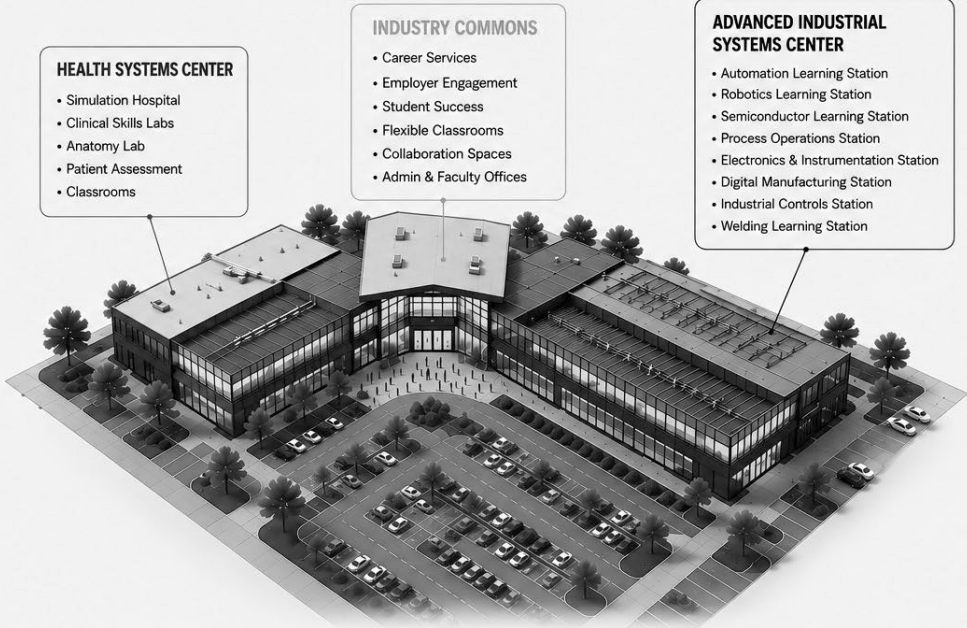
DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

The HCC Industry Training Center is organized around industry systems, not academic departments. Shared learning stations, flexible spaces, and industry partnerships create an agile, efficient, and future-ready learning environment.

-  **Industry Systems**
Not Departments
-  **Learning Stations**
Not Program Labs
-  **Shared Resources**
Maximum Utilization
-  **Industry Partnerships**
Real-World Relevance
-  **Future Ready**
Built to Adapt and Grow
-  **Building Size**
~55,000 SF

CONCEPT OVERVIEW

TWO industry-focused centers connected by a dynamic Industry Commons.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF HOUSTON CITY COLLEGE

Houston City College is asking the Texas Legislature for \$50 million to fund a new building on its Katy campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway. The proposed HCC Industry Training Center would be “designed like industry, organized like industry and built for the future,” HCC NW President Zachary Hodges told members of the business and community steering committee on September 1.



PHOTO BY SUSAN ROVEGNO

Jordan Carswell, Director of Houston City College’s West Houston Institute, presented an overview of WHI programs to HCC Katy’s business and community steering committee on September 1 at the Katy campus at 22910 Colonial Parkway.

ceremony for the second cohort of Tesla apprentices that will work in operations and manufacturing technology at the new Tesla battery factory.

- HCC was just awarded \$1 million dollars from the Lowe’s Foundation to deliver

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ZACHARY HODGES, Houston City College NW president

training in the construction trades.

- HCC, in partnership with the Greater Houston Partnership, received a \$17 million grant from the Bloomberg Foundation to train high school students and adults in high demand fields.
- HCC is building out an aviation program and has received a \$773,000 start-up grant.
- Outreach to industry and serving their needs. Tesla, Foxconn, NRG, among others.
- Expanding manufacturing to West Houston Institute and Engineering hub at Stafford to support aerospace engineering at UH Clear Lake.
- Growing engineering partnerships and has added engineering technology to the engineering program.
- Supporting all HCC Entrepreneurship programs for small business development.

Jordan Carswell, Director of the West

Houston Institute (WHI), presented an overview of WHI, explaining how the institute develops both technical and interpersonal skills through innovation and hands-on learning. He emphasized the importance of students being able to “show their work” and shared examples such as a 3-D concrete printer that students used to learn programming, robotics, and architecture.

WHI’s work centers on three key areas:

1. Mindsets and skillsets
2. Innovation capacity
3. Experiential learning

The presentation also highlighted the IDEAS membership, which has included more than 3,000 members since 2018 from HCC, Alief ISD, and UT Tyler. Through the IDEAS Academy, WHI supports K-12 educators and brings makerspaces and hands-on innovation opportunities into classrooms.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The WALLER COUNTY MUNIICPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 60A will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. at 1300 POST OAK BOULEVARD, SUITE 2500, HOUSTON, TX 77056. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal:	Corinne Morris, Sarah Joyner, Lisa R Connell
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	DeKecha P Shepard, Ashlyn Shaw

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$1.50000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$1.50000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$0.00000 /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$0.00	\$248,350.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$0.00	\$248,350.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$0.00	\$3,725.25
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$3,725.25 0.00%

NOTICE OF TAXPAYERS' RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8 percent, the qualified voters of the district by petition may require that an election be held to determine whether to reduce the operation and maintenance tax rate to the voter-approval tax rate under Section 49.23603, Water Code.

There were no residential homesteads on either January 1, 2025 or January 1, 2026, therefore the tax that would have been imposed on a residential homestead is \$0.00. Due to this the tax election rate is not applicable for 2026 tax year.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The CINCO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 08 will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2026 on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. at 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 1000, Houston, TX 77046. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

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FOR the proposal:	Daniel P Coyer, Steven C Haas, Mark Baird, Dano Lozano, Brian Gardner
AGAINST the proposal:	NONE
PRESENT and not voting:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.42000 /\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.41000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value	\$-0.01000 /\$100	
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-2.38%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$394,901.00	\$395,440.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$23,494.00	\$13,803.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$371,407.00	\$381,637.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$1,559.91	\$1,564.71
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$4.80 0.31%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

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