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News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New TSTC Industrial Training Center in Abilene

ABILENE, Texas – With combined resources of 12 million dollars authorized from the Texas Legislature and 6 million dollars of commitment from the Abilene community, Texas State Technical College has continued work with local Abilene leaders exploring site options for the new TSTC industrial training facility in Abilene scheduled to open in fall of 2018.

The land adjacent to the Abilene Regional Airport was identified as a possible site option for the new center. Working through the details of the site agreement with airport officials, Abilene and TSTC leadership received confirmation this week that the tract of land adjacent to the airport was approved by the FAA for the project. This was the final requirement of the agreement.

“We couldn’t be more appreciative of both the financial commitment from the Abilene community and the ongoing collaborative effort with City leadership to make the new TSTC training facility a reality,” said TSTC Chancellor Mike Reeser.

“The opportunity for Abilene to have a new educational center for Texas State Technical College is beyond words,” said Norm Archibald, Mayor of Abilene. “We have enjoyed over 30 years of TSTC in Abilene and the region and this partnership for a new center will help take our workforce to a new level.”

In September of 2015, TSTC commissioned The Perryman Group, a Waco-based economic research and analysis firm, to conduct a study of the city and found that Abilene needs more industrial training in the area. Industry needs such as welding, industrial maintenance, and electrical power and control were identified as training programs to open at the new site.

TSTC began offering classes in Abilene in 1985 and currently offers programs including Aircraft Technology, Computer Information Systems, Allied Health/EMS, and Culinary. The new facility is designed to expand the program offerings in “heavy” industrial fields.

“TSTC is thankful for the opportunity to strengthen and better complement the existing rich array of opportunities provided by our higher educational partners in Taylor County,” added Reeser. “A significant and sustainable competitive advantage is created in a community when this type of collaboration exist between strong 4 year, 2 year and technical education providers as it does in Abilene. The true winners are the students, employers and economic prosperity of the region.”

“We anticipate the start of the construction for the new TSTC campus very soon. This will bring greater training for our workforce which will lead to more companies wanting to take advantage of coming to Abilene to start their businesses. This is a great day for Abilene,” said Archibald.

Groundbreaking for the new TSTC industrial training center is scheduled for 10:30 A.M. on April 20 at the approved site adjacent to the Abilene Regional Airport. For more information contact Rick Denbow (rick.denbow@tstc.edu; 325.738.3349).

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