Laredo College receives over $5M in funds for STEM, civics instruction

On Monday, Oct. 4, Laredo College and Congressman Henry Cuellar announced that the college has been awarded with $5.25 million for the Laredo College LEAPS Power Project and the 2021 Citizenship and Integration Program.

The Laredo College Dean of Community Education, Obed Peña, and TAMIU President Dr. Pablo Arenaz said the accord signals a renewal of the institutions’ shared commitment and vision for higher education in our community and region, which aims to increase the number of degree-seeking Hispanic and low-income students in STEM fields and increase the number of articulations with universities.

“The wonderful work of helping students succeed. This MOU grants Articulation grant for the college. This new funding provides undergraduate research, advising, mentoring, tutoring as well as wrap around support to promote optimal wellness and emotional resilience aggravated by COVID-19,” stated Dr. Nora Garza, Vice President for Resource Development and External Affairs.

Congressman Henry Cuellar, a staunch advocate for better opportunities in higher education across Texas, was also instrumental in securing this funding for Laredo College in support of STEM education.

“These funds will allow Laredo College to increase Hispanic students’ sense of belonging in higher education and STEM careers. Quality STEM education can prepare students for their future and allow them to reach their full potential. Through these funds, the LEAPS Power Project is now a reality. I look forward to watching student graduation and transfer dramatically increase,” said Congressman Cuellar.

The MOU was signed in TAMIU’s Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library.

Congressman Henry Cuellar, a staunch advocate for better opportunities in higher education across Texas, was also instrumental in securing this funding for Laredo College in support of STEM education.

“The MOU helps to codify something we both cherish: a shared path benefiting students and their higher education goals and is subject to renewal or modification by mutual written consent of both parties.

LC, TAMU renew shared commitment through MOU agreement

With the stroke of multiple pens, a long-cherished agreement between Laredo’s champions of higher education has been renewed.

In ceremonies Thursday, the leaders of Laredo College (LC) and Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) once again committed to a shared path benefiting students and their higher education goals.

The MOU was signed in TAMIU’s Sue and Radcliffe Killam Library.

TAMIU President Dr. Pablo Arenaz said the accord signals a renewal of the institutions’ shared commitment and vision for higher education here, something he finds especially affirming in today’s climate of challenge.

“This MOU helps to codify something we both cherish: a shared commitment to higher education and our students. While the past 18+ months of the COVID-19 Pandemic have brought real challenges for higher education in our community and region, we have both been sustained by the essential missions we deliver for students and their brighter futures. This MOU affirms that and encourages us to continue to do more,” Dr. Arenaz said.

“LC Interim President Dr. Marisela Rodriguez Tijerina concurred, noting the MOU helps make transfers seamless.

“This agreement is another example of how LC and TAMU work together for the benefit of our students and community. It provides students opportunities to transfer and succeed in TAMIU and assists them throughout their educational journey and completion,” Dr. Tijerina added. “I look forward to collaborating more with TAMIU and continuing to build more opportunities for our students.”

The MOU serves to set forth major principles of mutual cooperation and expectations between the two institutions.

Among provisions are the development of web-published transfer guides for degree programs that share the goals of credits applicable to the plan’s degree program. The MOU also sets in place institutional collaborations, guidance on admissions and recruiting and the opportunity for the completion of an associate’s degree or reverse transfer. The renewed MOU remains in force for a period of five years and is subject to renewal or modification by mutual written consent of both parties.