

PRESS RELEASE • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2020

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CORPUS CHRISTI TO HOST FOUR OTHER COMMUNITIES IN NATIONAL INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK CONVENING

*United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, part of the Inclusive Development Network,
To host convening on February 4-5, 2020 in Corpus Christi
Sponsored by Port Corpus Christi*

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX JANUARY 29, 2020 – Corpus Christi, Texas today announced it will host a convening on February 4-5, 2020, as one of the five communities in the Inclusive Development Network (IDN), an ambitious initiative designed to advance inclusive workforce development within the selected regions through a focus on reaching underserved populations. Cleveland, Ohio; Corpus Christi, Texas; Coweta, Oklahoma; Spokane, Washington; and Pensacola, Florida, are the Network’s first cohort of communities in the inaugural initiative of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) working to identify and implement strategies that reduce equity gaps in local workforce development.

Port Corpus Christi is Title Sponsor of the IDN-Corpus Christi Convening and will host a Welcome Reception for IDN representatives from the five cities, CAEL, national technical partners, Burning Glass Technologies, Quest Site Solutions, local dignitaries and invited guests at the Art Museum of South Texas on Tuesday, February 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. Special remarks at the reception will be provided by Charlie W. Zahn, Jr., Chair Port of Corpus Christi Commission, Peter Zanoni, City Manager at City of Corpus Christi and The Honorable Barbara Canales, Nueces County Judge.

“As the chief advocate for the entire business community, we will serve as a multidimensional model wherein the diversity and inclusion function is part of all facets of the unified chamber,” said Dr. Gilda E. Ramirez, *United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Small Business and Education*. “The stated mission of the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce is, ‘to advance economic prosperity for all businesses.’ This mission cannot be



accomplished without an inclusive, long-term strategic plan for the community’s workforce development through education advancement and skill training.”

The United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce has assembled an IDN-Corpus Christi leadership team that includes representatives from local institutions, including the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, Port Corpus Christi, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend, Citizens for Education Excellence, The Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Coastal Bend, West Oso Independent School District, South Texas Economic Development Center, Hammonds Education Leadership Programs, Inc (HELP), and the YWCA.

Through a specialized planning process facilitated by CAEL, the leadership teams from the selected communities will hone inclusive workforce development strategies to create education, job and career opportunities for all residents.

“Although our economy is growing, segments of our communities are still struggling with poverty, wage stagnation and underemployment. In local economic development, a focus on working adults and inclusivity can help ensure that every member of the community has the opportunity to thrive,” said CAEL President Marie A. Cini. “Each of the communities selected for the Network will help build and scale an inclusive new approach to workforce development.”

Backed by grants from ECMC Foundation and JPMorgan Chase & Co., the Inclusive Development Network will be supported by partnerships with national experts, including International Economic Development Council (IEDC), Burning Glass Technologies, Avalanche Consulting Inc. and Quest Site Solutions.

“This work is about promoting economic inclusion for working adults at the local level,” said ECMC Foundation President Peter J. Taylor. “Together, these leaders will blaze a new trail to a more equitable and prosperous future for working adults, families and communities.”

To learn more about the IDN, visit inclusivedevelopmentnetwork.org/

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About the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL): Established in 1974, The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) is a Strada Education Network affiliate and national, nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization dedicated to partnering with educators, employers, and workforce and economic developers. Together we reimagine how education and employment fit together, and we create lifelong pathways that integrate learning and work. Our



aim is to support the engaged participation of adults in thriving talent pipelines and robust economic development in the 21st century economy. Visit www.cael.org to learn more.

About ECMC Foundation: ECMC Foundation is a Los Angeles-based, nationally focused foundation whose mission is to inspire and to facilitate improvements that affect educational outcomes—especially among underserved populations—through evidence-based innovation. It is one of several affiliates under the ECMC Group enterprise based in Minneapolis. ECMC Foundation makes investments in two focus areas: College Success and Career Readiness; and uses a spectrum of funding structures, including strategic grantmaking and program-related investments, to invest in both nonprofit and for-profit ventures. Working with grantees, partners and peers, ECMC Foundation’s vision is for all learners to unlock their fullest potential. Learn more about ECMC Foundation by visiting www.ecmcfoundation.org and ECMC Group by visiting www.ecmcgroup.org.

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