

MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT 1992 - 2002

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

WHARTON, TEXAS

JUNE 1992

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WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

As one of the older community colleges in Texas, Wharton County Junior College has provided to every citizen a legacy of providing affordable, high quality education. The idea of a junior college for Wharton County first took shape nearly half a century ago. Even before World War II was over, a Post War Planning Board composed of prominent citizens decided in 1944 to support the establishment of a first-class college for the coastal region of Texas. As a result, a County Junior College Committee was organized on August 7, 1945, and the Wharton County Junior College District was created by election on April 6, 1946.

The first classroom instruction began in September 1946, with about 200 students. During its first two years, the college was housed in five Wharton County Fair buildings located on the Fair Grounds. Today the main campus has grown to 90 acres on both sides of Alabama Road north of the Boling Highway. The college property also includes the 200 acre **Hutchins** Research and Experimental Farm on the Bay City Highway. Additional classes are offered off campus in **El Campo**, Bay City, Richmond, and Sugar Land.

The college credit enrollment has grown from 200 in 1946 to 3,000 annually. Almost 8,000 students have earned two year associate degrees at WCJC while thousands of others have transferred to senior institutions for baccalaureate degrees. In addition to credit courses, a wide variety of non-credit courses for career improvement and personal enrichment are offered. More than 3,000 students each year enroll in these continuing education programs.

The college is now in its 47th year of providing higher education - building the district's communities "one mind at a time."