



# HCC Service Plan for the Spring Branch Community

## HCC'S VISION

Houston Community College will become the nation's most **relevant** community college by providing **opportunity** and ensuring we are **essential** to our community's success.

## HCC'S COMMITMENT TO THE SPRING BRANCH COMMUNITY

HCC has been serving Spring Branch area residents since 1986.

We offer **high quality, affordable** education for:

- academic advancement
- career and technical training
- online classes
- lifelong learning

HCC has already made the following investments in Spring Branch:

- **\$35 million** capital investment and **\$16 million** annual operational investment in the *Spring Branch Campus at 1010 W. Sam Houston Pkwy N.*
- Created a new set of academic, workforce, and continuing education facilities

Funds for HCC's initial investment in Spring Branch were drawn from state reimbursements and out-of-district tuition and fees from Spring Branch residents.

The HCC Board of Trustees commits to use **100% of the property tax dollars** from Spring Branch annexation to support education in Spring Branch.

- Tuition reduction takes effect January 2010.
- Tax collection takes effect January 2011.

HCC commits to work with SBISD, as with other ISD's, to leverage dollars and create partnerships to maximize Spring Branch residents' tax dollars.

**Final plan approved by the HCC Board on August 20, 2009.**

## TAX RATE AND TUITION\*

- The tuition rate that would apply after annexation for a student who resides in Spring Branch or in other in-district areas is **\$57.00** (half the current rate) for one credit hour.
- The tuition rate that would apply for a student who resides outside the HCC district is **\$114** for one credit hour.
- A general fee waiver for adults over 55 is \$10 per semester hour.
- The most recent property tax rate adopted by the Board, including any tax rate increase proposed or anticipated to occur after annexation, is \$.092 per \$100 of assessed value.
- HCC has no proposed plans for a tax increase after annexation.
- The homestead exemption is a minimum of **\$5,000** or 10% of the assessed value, whichever is greater.
- The exemption for taxpayers ages 65 and older is **\$100,000**.
- HCC improved efficiencies by \$4.5 million to enable a property tax rate reduction for 2008 and 2009.

## CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

HCC positively impacts the region's economy, increases students' lifetime income, reduces the demand for social services and generates government revenue.

<b>ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS</b>
The Spring Branch Campus will be a catalyst for redevelopment in the area, following the Memorial City/Memorial Herman project and the new City Centre development.
The HCC Spring Branch Campus Redevelopment project will include mixed-use facilities created by leveraging construction dollars and partnering with local stakeholders. HCC will commit initial funding of \$50 million to begin the campus redevelopment projects.
The community has expressed interest in: a Performing Arts and Conference Center, a Science and Engineering building in collaboration with major universities in the area, a Workforce & Small Business Development & Entrepreneur Center and an Academic Tower and expanded parking facility.
The new campus project will be an economic development engine for the community created through partnerships and leveraging resources.
The new campus project will promote opportunities for partnerships between HCC and Spring Branch ISD through an Early College High School, fine arts programs, leisure learning programs and shared uses of technology, including HCC TV.
A community advisory committee that includes Spring Branch stakeholders will be formed to review and guide the implementation of the HCC Spring Branch Service Plan.

## BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF THE HCC DISTRICT

By expanding the Houston Community College District to include the Spring Branch Independent School District (SBISD), residents will enjoy the following services and programs. (SBISD will retain its own identity and Board.)

ACTION	BENEFIT
HCC leverages tax dollars to benefit the community, providing low-cost, high quality programs at a low tax rate.	Return <b>\$5.10 for every \$1</b> of taxes invested while expanding our support and working to provide important services to the community.*
HCC reduces tuition for Spring Branch residents.	A <b>50% reduction</b> to current tuition saves approximately \$1,000 per year for a full time student.
HCC will expand the Spring Branch Campus to serve 10,000 to 12,000 students.	A <b>mixed-use</b> campus based on community vision.
HCC hires a master planner and systems architect to design a state-of-the-art campus.	Create a college campus to meet the future needs of the Spring Branch community.
HCC and SBISD will expand the <b>Early College Program**</b> to match the demand of the community enrollment.	Students can simultaneously earn up to <b>one year</b> of college (30 credits) and a high school diploma.
HCC will develop career and technical pathways.	Positively impact Spring Branch by providing a trained workforce such as in healthcare and first responders.
HCC will work to bring a university component to the campus.	Provide upper level classes such as engineering, math and science.
HCC will expand <i>Dual Credit</i> course offerings for Spring Branch high school students.	Provide free <i>Dual Credit</i> classes for high school students. The expanded <i>Dual Credit</i> programs will serve more academic and workforce students
HCC will expand academic and training programs to prepare students with 21st century workforce and academic skills.	Achieve greater success in transferring to a four-year institution or entering today's workforce.
HCC will expand its Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) to include "Creative Retirement" classes.	Continuing education classes for seniors.
HCC will have the capacity to expand its offerings of programs and courses to meet the needs of the entire community.	Added access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic math, English and reading for college readiness.</li> <li>• English as a Second Language, adult literacy and GED.</li> </ul>

\*Economic data based on 2008 research conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.

\*\***Early College Program** is a unique school on a college campus, providing junior and senior high students the opportunity to earn up to one year of college and a high school diploma.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

HCC plans to continue to partner with the following Spring Branch organizations throughout the community.

COMMUNITY PARTNER	RELATIONSHIP
Spring Branch Independent School District	Provide dual credit courses, College Connections, participate in various committees, councils, workshops and grants.
University of Houston	STEP AHEAD pre-engineering program with UH Cullen College of Engineering, dedicated UH STEM Advisor at HCC, articulation agreements, dual admissions, and summer hands-on research program for HCC students.
Rice University	Summer research opportunities for HCC students at Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology and collaboration with George R. Brown School of Engineering.
NASA-Johnson Space Center	HCC students and faculty have the opportunity to participate in numerous research and educational programs sponsored by NASA.
Newspring	Co-develop a Center for Entrepreneurship to coordinate economic development initiatives, including the Spring Branch Business Plan Competition.
West Houston Association	Membership and leadership participation as a growth partner. The WHA hosts forums with speakers on topics concerning infrastructure and public policies.
Houston West Chamber of Commerce	Membership and leadership participation in various committees to address the economic and educational needs of the area.
West Houston Leadership Institute	Participate and coordinate education of community leaders on local issues including educational needs of the area.
YMCA	Cultivate joint programs for students and members.
Spring Branch Super Neighborhoods	Participate and attend monthly meetings addressing community needs, education, housing, business, beautification, crime and safety.
Spring Branch Family Development Center	Participate in and coordinate events benefiting the Hispanic community.
Memorial Assistance Ministries	Participate in providing access and opportunity for all members of the community.