



SOUTH TEXAS NEUROSURGERY ASSOCIATES

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Texas Education Agency
Christine Bailie, Assistant Director of Postsecondary Preparation Programs
Division of College, Career, and Military Preparation
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701-1494

Dear Texas Education Agency Representatives:

On behalf of **STNA**, it is with great pleasure that I present this letter of collaboration with Jubilee Academies and partners in their proposed 2022–2024 Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) Planning and Implementation Grant Application. Jubilee Academies' plan is to develop a P-TECH model which will allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to receive both a high school diploma and college credit hours toward an associate's degree, as well as career based certifications in the career pathway of their choosing. The P-TECH Academy will also provide students with technical and academic fluency skills needed for a smooth transition to postsecondary and the workforce. The P-TECH will provide dual credit at no cost to historically underserved students, targeting those who are at-risk and/or economically disadvantaged and providing academic and social support services to help students succeed in college level coursework.

We at **STNA** understand the importance of providing students with access to information and training in high demand fields. The regional labor market snapshot indicates STEM fields continue to be the top growing occupations in Cameron County particularly in, but not limited to, health care, medical fields, engineering, and technology, aligned with those courses that will be offered at Jubilee's P-TECH Academy. Multiple vacancies in these fields are currently available at local employers such as, but not limited to, Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Harlingen Medical Center, Valley Baptist Health System, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (Space X). While the labor market snapshot indicates STEM programs are crucial to form the knowledge base needed to meet these in-demand occupations, most job openings in these fields require specialized STEM education and training.

Our organization will support this initiative by offering Jubilee P-TECH Academy students access to career presentations, innovative work-based learning opportunities, and job skills training in STEM fields. We are also excited to work with teachers to enhance the curriculum framework and attend information sessions with Jubilee Academies to showcase our student's growth and commitment to the program.

South Texas Neurosurgery Associates looks forward to collaborating with Jubilee Academies and partners as they develop and implement exciting and innovative STEM learning opportunities for students in this region, ensuring students develop critical academic, technical, and STEM fluency skills needed for the STEM career pipeline.

Sincerely,


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