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County groups joins college completion initiative

By JOHN WAYNE FERGUSON | Posted: Thursday, June 27, 2013 12:07 am

GALVESTON — A new effort is underway to increase college graduation rates in Galveston County.

The Houston-based nonprofit Center for Houston's future has announced that it is partnering with the city, the chamber of commerce and the Galveston Economic Development Partnership to launch a new program known as My Degree Counts.

When the program launched in April 2012, My Degree Counts aimed to raise college graduation rates in the Houston area by 1 percent by the summer of 2013. The initiatives hoped to do that by focusing on adults who had dropped out of school before finishing their degree and providing them with the contacts and resources needed to finish.

The Center for Houston's future claims that a 1 percent increase in the completion of four-year degrees would result in \$5 billion for the economy.

The center's partnership with Galveston will include informational sessions and a college fair. Local businesses will be encouraged to inform their employees about the program.

"We recognize that an educated workforce is really good for business. It's good for the community and it's really good for families as well," said Sharon Gillins, the co-chair of the chamber's education committee. "We'll be working with Houston toward the common goal which is to increase the completion rate either at community college or four-eyar colleges thought the region."

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