

# Around LA PORTE

Happy Valentine's Day

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upwards of 15 part-time and full-time instructors, and upwards of 250 credit and industry students and appropriate parking space.

Not all the instructors and students would be at the Maritime Center at the same time. Students seeking an associate of applied science degree in maritime technology will divide their time between the Maritime Center and the Central Campus near Luella, where they will take courses fulfilling their general education requirements.

The facility will have an ingress and egress off South Broadway directly across from the Shady Oaks subdivision in La Porte.

Directional LED lights on the property will be used to minimize light pollution and no impact on drainage is expected.

Officials from San Jacinto College met with the mayors of La Porte, Pasadena, Morgan's Point and Shoreacres in the fall to discuss the project and a public forum was held on Sept. 11 at the Houston Yacht Club.

"San Jacinto College is committed to meeting the educational and workforce needs of our community," said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor of San Jacinto College. "We are developing this training center based on input from the maritime industry. Our goal is to meet both the current and future workforce needs. The jobs in this industry pay excellent wages and the demand is high for qualified and trained individuals."

Employment in water transportation jobs along the Texas Gulf Coast is expected to increase by almost 22 percent in the next six years. Both the expansion of the Panama Canal and the growing number of maritime workers nearing retirement age have placed increasing demands for the recruitment of more skilled labor in the maritime industry.

SJC began offering maritime training in a leased facility along Highway 225 in May 2010, providing students a chance to earn associate of technology degree in Maritime Technology.

The SJC North Campus offers an associate's degree in International Business and Logistics, and the South Campus offers an associate's degree in Maritime Business Administration that has a transfer pathway to Texas A&M University at Galveston.

## SJC to Build Maritime Technology & Training Center Near Shoreacres

By David Lee Janda, Jr.

San Jacinto College plans to build a Maritime Technology and Training Center on 13 acres north of the Bayport Ship Channel in Pasadena, near Shoreacres' southern boundary.

Construction is expected to begin in March or April of this year with a move-in date set for 2015.

The two-story elevated facility will include state-of-the-art classrooms and labs and offer a high resolution, interactive, full-mission ship, towboat and tugboat simulators donated by the Houston Pilots Association.

The Maritime Center is being built to accommodate future growth due to industry needs and will have space to support



An artist's rendition of the planned Maritime Technology and Training Center that San Jacinto College plans to build on 13 acres near the southern boundary of Shoreacres.

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SJC also trains current mariners on updated technology and new maritime policy in fulfillment of their U.S. Coast Guard certifications and licenses.

Some of these professional mariners want to move to the next level in their career path and others are updating licenses as industry requirements change.

San Jacinto College has awarded more than 1,800 certificates for USCG-approved training to members of the local maritime industry.

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