



**Wharton County
Junior College**

NEWS RELEASE

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A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

Security system improvement project upgrades safety features at WCJC campuses

WHARTON, TEXAS – Wharton County Junior College students attending classes this fall will be the first to experience the benefits of security upgrades thanks to a large-scale security system improvement project.

Costing roughly \$1.3 million, the project includes everything from exterior lighting to video monitoring to a cutting-edge door lock system that allows for remote lockdown of campus facilities. The overall purpose is to make the Wharton, Richmond and Bay City campuses as secure as possible.

The college's Sugar Land campus falls under University of Houston security policies and is not included in the project.

The project was developed by the college's Safety Advisory Committee and approved by the WCJC Board of Trustees. Several components have already been completed. These include updated locks on 660 classrooms and offices, body cameras for security officers, a new emergency radio system and the installation of personal safes in residence halls.

Improvements currently underway include a remote locking system, the installation of video cameras in parking areas, a new Public Address system, continued upgrade of LED lighting and the installation of electronic signage for emergency announcements.

The upgrades are being completed in four phases:

- Phase I: electronic locks
- Phase II: video cameras
- Phase III: Public Address system

Campus locations in ♦ Wharton ♦ Sugar Land ♦ Richmond ♦ Bay City ■ Extension Center in El Campo

- Phase IV: interior electronic signage

“These projects allow for increased campus monitoring capabilities and an enhanced security environment for the benefit of our staff, students and visitors,” said WCJC Security and Public Safety Director Danny Terronez.

The college on Aug. 1 also began allowing concealed carry license holders to carry concealed firearms on the campuses as part of the new Campus Carry Law. Persons possessing valid License to Carry (LTC) certification may now carry concealed handguns on campus areas not deemed Exclusion Zones.

“Gun-free zones have been established and signs are posted identifying where they are at,” Terronez said.

Additional information on the Campus Carry Law can be found on the college’s website, www.wcjc.edu

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