

## **A Call to Action: A New Standard of Clean**

*Grant Funded Program aims to tackle COVID-19 with new initiative*

Cameron County Education Initiative (CCEI), a non-profit career training school recently collaborated with Breaking Bad actor/philanthropist RJ Mitte and Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), a member of The Texas A&M University System, to create a disinfectant and cleaning-training program. The program aims to safeguard working and living conditions as communities begin to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program, **A Call to Action: A New Standard of Clean**, provides fast and affordable training for workers and leaders in county businesses. This training falls on the heels of new cases of COVID-19 rising across the state of Texas

RJ Mitte, a resident of Cameron County who lives with cerebral palsy, was instrumental in the program development has become a passionate advocate on this topic. “This Call to Action is vital in that it allows us to keep Texas open safely and raise the standard of clean for healthier communities” stated Mitte.

The instructor-led online training was created by TEEX. TEEX trains over 220,000 individuals a year and is known worldwide for its innovative workforce training models. It will deliver online training to workers and management personnel to ensure new tactics for safer working and living conditions for Cameron County.

“The mission of TEEX is to make a difference worldwide. For us, worldwide starts at home at the local, county and state level. The ability to assist a business or community protect and save lives from the impact of COVID-19 is at the heart of what we do” said Mark Posada, TEEX Assistant Agency Director.

Current maintenance staff will be trained on appropriate sanitation and disinfectant techniques as recommended by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Managers will be trained to assess employee exposure risk and ensure “new standard of clean” safe work processes and procedures are followed. To earn the distinction of meeting a “A New Standard of Clean”, workers and administration must participate in the training program.

“Having a safe and sanitized work environment is an all-in effort that isn’t just for the maintenance team,” stated Rita Hernandez, President of CCEI. “The goal is to make our communities safe for workers and families, while increasing consumer confidence.”

The program is comprised of three vital pieces: Training for Workers, Training for Leaders and Decal Identification System. This decal identification system is designed to increase consumer confidence as it displays that both the workers and leadership understand this “New Standard of Clean.”

For more information about this program, contact CCEI at 956 641-4800, or email [rhernandez@myccei.org](mailto:rhernandez@myccei.org)