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OFFICE OF THE BACHELOR PROGRAMS

Sitting from left to right: Veronica De Hoyos (Administrative Assistant), Norma Strawn-Soto (Faculty Secretary), Nelda Saenz (Student Success Specialist), Jarice Cortez (Student Success Specialist).

Standing from left to right: Saeed Molki (Department Chair-CITP), Dr. John Santana (Department Chair-MHSM), Dr. Ali Esmaeili (Dean), Dr. Benito Garza (Faculty), Dr. Oscar Plaza (Department Chair-Technology Management).

BACHELORS PROGRAM STAFF & ADMINISTRATORS

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South Texas College
Bachelor Programs
Pecan Campus, North Academic Building G-237
956-872-7272
Each Bachelor program is required to have an active Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee membership is comprised of community leaders, industry stakeholders, and program alumni. In the initial stages of program development, input from advisory committee play a major role in curriculum development and program design. During several meetings, the advisory committee members share their expectations regarding skills and knowledge required for graduates in the specific field of study.

The advisory committee remains integral in the ongoing implementation of the program as the committee is required to meet twice per year to ensure the program stays current with business and industry expectations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aguirre, Maribel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garcia, Billy R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Garcia, Claudia</td>
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<td>Gonzalez, Jorge Luis</td>
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<td>Gonzalez, Luis Eduardo</td>
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<td>Garcia, Mark</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miller, Todd</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Pena, Maggie</td>
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<td>Rangel, Jose L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vittitoe, Diana</td>
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### Computer & Information Technology Advisory Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garcia, Joe A.</td>
<td>Chief Financial Officer</td>
<td>Plains Capital Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gomez, Jose A.</td>
<td>Information Systems Auditor III</td>
<td>University of Texas Pan American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzalez, Roy</td>
<td>Computer Tech -PSJA</td>
<td>PSJA CISD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hernandez, Victor</td>
<td>Self Employed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazinski, Christopher</td>
<td>LMS Development Manager</td>
<td>University of Texas Pan American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller, Todd</td>
<td>HR Officer</td>
<td>Plains Capital Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers, Cynthia</td>
<td>IT Manager</td>
<td>Plains Capital Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker, Michael</td>
<td>Systems Administrator</td>
<td>McAllen Economic Development Corporation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangel, Jose</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Plains Capital Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodriguez, Hector D.</td>
<td>Self Employed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solis, Jose Lupe</td>
<td>Project Coordinator</td>
<td>South Texas Health System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wu, Kassandra</td>
<td>Director of Application Services</td>
<td>Doctors Hospital at Renaissance</td>
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### Medical Health Services Management Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Aguirre, Maribel</td>
<td>Self-Employed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Azuara, Deanna S.</td>
<td>Operations Manager</td>
<td>Ashley Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond, Pam</td>
<td>Director of Education</td>
<td>Rio Grande Regional Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esmaeili, Dr. Amir</td>
<td>Doctor of Physical Therapy</td>
<td>Doctors Hospital at Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garcia, Mark</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>McAllen Foreign Trade Zone Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garza, Mario</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Ameri-Care Nursing Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzalez, Jorge Luis</td>
<td>Real Estate Supervisor</td>
<td>Hidalgo Co. Appraisal District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leal, Rudy</td>
<td>Business Manager</td>
<td>Ashley Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo, Lori</td>
<td>Director of Human Resources</td>
<td>Doctors Hospital at Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller, Todd</td>
<td>Senior HR Officer</td>
<td>Plains Capital Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowery, Kathleen</td>
<td>Vice President of Quality and Compliance</td>
<td>Mission Regional Medical Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munoz, Thalia</td>
<td>Hospital Administrator</td>
<td>Starr County Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namboodiri, Hari K.</td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Las Palmas Health Care Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parker, Michael</td>
<td>Systems Administrator</td>
<td>McAllen EDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangel, Jose L.</td>
<td>Senior Vice President</td>
<td>Plains Capital Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduation Recognition Ceremony
BACKGROUND

- HISTORICAL OVERVIEW
- KEY EVENTS
- ACCREDITATION
- PROGRAM QUALITY
South Texas College has played a key role in the Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) movement in Texas. In 2002, South Texas College along with educational leaders from several community colleges began exploring the possibility of offering baccalaureate degrees. There were unique factors that united the leadership of these community colleges to pursue the development of CCB degrees.

One important factor was the need to create a seamless pathway to baccalaureate degree attainment for mostly nontraditional students who graduate with Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees. Similar to the other states, students graduating with AAS degrees from Texas community colleges were encountering difficulties when transferring to four-year universities. In addition, the same force that assisted the development of CCB degrees in other states was also in place in Texas, which was the increasing demand by regional employers for employees with applied bachelors degrees.

To pursue their vision of offering baccalaureate degrees, the leadership of several community colleges joined together to identify and establish local needs for applied baccalaureate degrees in their service area. With documented local need for such programs, the college leaders were able to recruit local and state representatives who were willing to champion this important cause during the next legislative session. Their vision became a reality when in 2003, Texas legislators passed Senate Bill (SB) 286 during the 78th legislative session that established a pilot project and expanded the program offering authority of Brazosport College, Midland College, and South Texas College to include bachelors degrees in the applied science and applied technology fields.

On June 20, 2003, Governor Rick Perry signed SB 286 into law. This bill, authored by Senator Eliot Shapleigh and sponsored by Representative Geanie Morrison, amended subchapter A, chapter 130, Texas Education code, by adding Section 130.0012 baccalaureate degree programs, which authorized three Texas community colleges to confer baccalaureate degrees.
2003 Senate Bill 286 section 50 authorized three community colleges in Texas to pilot the offering applied baccalaureate degrees

2004 The College changed its name from South Texas Community College (STCC) to South Texas College (STC)

2004 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management

2004 Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS) accredited STC as a Level II Institution

2005 STC began to offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in Technology Management

2007 HB 2198, 80th Legislative session removed the pilot status. This bill made the authority to offer baccalaureate degrees permanent

2008 STC began to offer its second Bachelor degree in Computer & Information Technologies

2011 STC began to offer its third Bachelor degree in Medical & Health Services Management

2014 STC began to offer its fourth Bachelor degree in Organizational Leadership

ACCREDITATION

South Texas College is a member of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and received its initial accreditation in 1995 as a Level I institution, which enabled college administrators to award Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificates. In 2004, STC received accreditation as a Level II institution, which expanded the authority of the college to include awarding bachelors degrees.
South Texas College baccalaureate programs have been reviewed by external experts on several occasions. The first review was conducted when STC submitted its application to offer a second bachelors degree focusing on Computer & Information Technologies. This was developed based on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) standards for new bachelors or masters degree programs and was submitted to the THECB in February 2007. Due to the novelty of community college baccalaureate degrees in Texas, the THECB officials decided to require an additional step before approving the application.

External Review in 2007

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board staff enlisted the expertise of individuals from three different states to visit STC and evaluate the quality of the proposed baccalaureate degree in Computer and Information Technologies. The team visited STC on September 7, 2007 which included:

- Associate Dean from Colorado State University
- Department Chair from Nevada’s Great Basin College
- Manager from Texas Instruments

Review & Comments by Experts

The team’s report to the THECB staff stated that the new bachelors program at STC was comparable in quality to bachelors degrees offered by other higher education institutions in Texas. Thus, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board officials approved STC to offer a second bachelors degree in Computer and Information Technologies during their October 25, 2007 meeting.
External Review in 2009

In 2009, during the 81st legislative session, House Bill 2425 was enacted amending the 130.0012 Texas Higher Education Code, which directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct a statewide study. The study was to examine the success of existing community college baccalaureate programs, the economic feasibility of expanding these programs, the regional and state workforce needs, current and potential university offerings, and other methods of making baccalaureate degrees available, such as distance education and multi-institutional teaching centers.

During the month of October 2009, a delegation of external consultants and two THECB staff members visited the three colleges in Texas to determine the success of the BAT degrees offered by the three colleges. The three external consultants who participated in the site visit included:
- Provost from Truman State University
- Past President from Columbia Basin College in Washington
- Associate Provost for Academic Affairs from University of Northern Iowa

The delegation spent up to two days at each college and visited with administrators, students, faculty, advisory committee members, employers, and former students to collect information about the quality of the baccalaureate programs offered by each college.

Review & Comments by Experts

After the completion of the site visits in April 2009, the preliminary report submitted to the THECB by the external consultants stated that “Even in this early stage of program development, all three colleges were impressive in their commitment to the BAT and the quality of the bachelor programs.” In regards to the most important question of mission creep, the external consultants reported that, “there was no indication that any of the colleges were abandoning their traditional community college mission or were siphoning resources from existing programs.”
Rand Corporation Visit in 2014

On **February 6, 2014**, RAND Corporation representatives visited South Texas College on behalf of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to determine the possibility of developing community college baccalaureate programs in specific fields of study such as nursing, science technician fields (e.g., petroleum technology), fire sciences, and medical records. This study was mandated under **Senate Bill 414**.

The Rand Corporation’s charge is to visit four regions in Texas and gather input from stakeholders to **identify a process for decision-making** and to determine the criteria that can be used to determine which community colleges can offer baccalaureate degrees.

During their visit, the Rand representatives met with South Texas College leadership team, department faculty, employers, advisory committee members, current and former students.
OVERVIEW

- Overview of Bachelor Degrees
- Student Profiles
- Enrollment & Graduates
- Persistence
- Time to Graduate
- Subsequent Enrollment
- Employment & Salary
**OVERVIEW OF BACHELOR DEGREES**

South Texas College is one of the three community colleges in Texas that has authorization to offer bachelor degrees. The first Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) degree in Technology Management was offered in 2005, followed by the BAT degree in Computer and Information Technologies in 2008. STC began to offer the third BAT degree in Medical & Health Services Management in 2011.

South Texas College in partnership with Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMUC), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the College for All Texans Foundation (CFAT) as a part of an EDUCAUSE Next Generations Learning Challenges (NGLC) Wave III Grant has developed its 4th **Baccalaureate Degree** - Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (BAS-OL). The **BAS-OL is a Competency Based Baccalaureate Degree** that began in **Spring 2014** semester.

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership follows a different delivery model compared to the other Bachelor Programs offered in the College.

**STC BACHELOR PROGRAMS**
- Technology Management
- Computer & Information Technologies
- Medical & Health Service Management
- Organizational Leadership
The Fall 2013 semester enrollment analysis of the student demographic data shows that 53% are Female, 65% of all students enrolled are full-time, 72% are below the age of 35, and 92.7% are Hispanic.

**STATUS**
- Full-time: 65%
- Part-time: 35%

**GENDER**
- Female: 53%
- Male: 47%

**DIVERSITY**
- Hispanic: 92.4%
- White: 2.7%
- African-American: 0.5%
- Asian: 0.5%
- Other/Unknown: 3.9%

**AGE**
- 18-24: 24%
- 25-34: 48%
- 35-44: 19%
- 45-54: 8%
- 55 and over: 1%
Since 2005 over 2,200 students have enrolled in the upper level courses and 586 of them have received their bachelor degrees from South Texas College. The graduate placement rates as of 2012 has been 92% in the Technology Management and Medical & Health Service Management and 78% in the Computer and Information Technologies field.

### ENROLLMENT, GRADUATE, & PLACEMENT DATA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STC</th>
<th>HEADCOUNT</th>
<th>ENROLLMENT</th>
<th>GRADUATES</th>
<th>PLACEMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>TMGT</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHSM</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITP</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>291</td>
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</table>

**TM**: Technology Management  
**CIT**: Computer & Information Technologies  
**MHSM**: Medical & Health Services Management  
**OL**: Organizational Leadership

### PERSISTENCE

The chart below indicates the Fall to Fall Persistence rate of students in the bachelor programs. The persistence rate for 2012-2013 academic year indicates 86% for TMGT bachelor in Technology Management, 94% for Computer and Information Technologies, and 80% for Medical and Health Services Management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TO FALL - PERSISTENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>05 to 06</td>
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<tr>
<td>TMGT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITP</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHSM</td>
</tr>
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</table>

[Graph showing persistence rates from 2005-2013]
South Texas College’s three bachelor programs have produced 586 graduates since 2005. The chart below indicates that 94% of students have graduated within three years, and 74.4% have graduated within 2 years.

Number of students who graduated from the Technology Management program is 378 students. The chart below indicates the percentage of students who graduated within three years and two years with this degree.

The overall number of graduates from the Computer and Information Technologies is 173 students. The time to degree information for this program is provided in the chart below.
The Medical & Health Services Management was launched in 2011 and as of May 2013 the number of students graduated with this degree has reached 55 students and all students graduated within 2 years.

According to National Student Clearinghouse, out of 586 Bachelor Degree graduates 17% (100 students) have enrolled in subsequent educational course work. Many have enrolled in Master level programs and a few are pursuing their doctorate degrees.
The chart indicates the subsequent enrollment for each academic year. Earlier cohorts had more time to make arrangements for continuing their education. For example, 36% of the first TMGT cohort graduates in 2007 continued their education and 35% of CITP students who graduated in 2009 have continued their education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>GRADS</th>
<th>TRANSFER</th>
<th>TRANSFER #</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>CITP TOTAL</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>TMGT TOTAL</td>
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<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>17%</td>
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**EMPLOYMENT & SALARY**

According to the Gainful Employment-Placement Rate the mean annual salary for the graduates that have been tracked indicate a mean of $32,923 annual wages for Technology Management, and Medical and Health Services Management, and $36,615 for Computer and Information Technologies.

<table>
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<th>Mean Annual Wages</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>TMGT</td>
<td>$32,923</td>
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<td>CITP</td>
<td>$36,615</td>
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Mean Annual Wages  4th Quarter Report for 2009 - 2011
BACHELOR DEGREES

- TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT
- COMPUTER & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
- MEDICAL & HEALTH SERVICE MANAGEMENT
- ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP
The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management was created by collaborating with area businesses and industries in response to their needs for employees with a bachelors level education and training. In addition, the program was developed to provide students graduating with two-year associate degrees access to baccalaureate-level education.

The program was designed to prepare and train students for supervisory and management positions. The program's upper-level courses were designed to provide students with a broad business knowledge base, including issues related to business management, finance, information technology, and manufacturing. Furthermore, the capstone course taken during the last semester provides students with the opportunity to work on real-world projects.

The following AAS degrees are feeders into the Technology Management program:

- Business Administration
- Business Computer Systems
- Child Development
- Computer Aided Drafting & Design
- Culinary Arts
- Legal Office Management
- Office Management
- Nursing
- Paralegal
- Precision Manufacturing Technology
- Radiologic Technology
The Fall semester enrollments, graduates, and placement rates in the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management for the period of 2005 – 2013 is depicted in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment*</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>1,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduates**</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Chart showing enrollment and graduates over years]

![Class photo of graduates]

The chart above provides a visual representation of the enrollment and graduates for the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management from 2005 to 2013.
The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Computer and Information Technologies Program (CITP) prepares students for successful careers in the field of CIT. Coursework is balanced between theoretical and technical competencies to prepare graduates for a number of demands placed on CIT professionals. The degree is designed to educate and train students with relevant, technical knowledge of CIT practice to provide solutions for real-world problems, as well as to provide technical support for computer-based information systems. Technology-oriented coursework with an emphasis on computer application of those technologies forms the core requirements for this program.

The following AAS programs are feeder programs into the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management:

- Business Computer Systems
- Computer Aided Drafting & Design
- Business Administration
- Office Management
- Legal Office Management/Paralegal

The chart below indicates the program enrollment, graduates, and placement data since its inception in 2008.
The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Medical & Health Services Management program has been designed to prepare students for entry to mid-level management positions in a healthcare or medical facility. Coursework focuses on management principles, technological innovation in delivery of healthcare services, health information processing technology, and government regulations related to healthcare services. Graduates of this program are prepared in the fundamentals of healthcare system management, finance, medical staff roles and responsibilities, reimbursement mechanisms, electronic medical records, privacy issues, and legal issues related to the healthcare industry.

The following AAS degrees are feeder programs into the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Medical & Health Services Management:

- Associate Degree Nursing
- EMT Paramedic
- Health Information Technology
- Medical Assistant Technology
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Business Administration
- Pharmacy Technology
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Radiologic Technology
- Respiratory Therapy
- Human Resources Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Enrollment*</td>
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<td>31</td>
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<td>Graduates**</td>
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Medical & Health Services Management

- Enrollment
- Graduates

2012: Enrollment 31, Graduates 35
2013: Enrollment 97, Graduates 35
The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership program curriculum is based on competencies and skills that have been identified as necessary by 21st century business leaders. In particular, the degree in Organizational Leadership focuses on the development of information literacy, critical thinking, inquiry and analysis, written and oral communication, teamwork and problem solving, ethical reasoning and action, civic knowledge and engagement, and intercultural knowledge and competence.

**Unique Design**
- Competency-based student progress
- Seven week terms with flat rate tuition ($750/term)
- Personalized Learning Environment
- Flexible Curriculum (take coursework in any order/quantity of courses)
- Variety in Course Delivery (online, traditional, hybrid)
- Credit given for Work and/or Military Experience
- Provide students with competencies and skills to lead an organization in the 21st century

The following AAS degrees are feeder programs:
- Associate Degree Management
- Associate Degree Business Administration
- Business Administration AAS
- Human Resources Management

**Program Design**
PROGRAM ALUMNI

- ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES
- STUDENT TESTIMONIALS
ELVIRA ALONZO was hired as a part-time clerk with the City of McAllen straight out of high school. Being a fast learner and natural leader, she quickly began advancing within the organization. She realized that in order to continue moving forward in her career, she needed to take the next step and earn a college degree.

In 2008, Elvira walked across the graduation stage after completing the Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in Technology Management at South Texas College. Today, she manages a multi-million dollar operation and oversees over 250 employees as the Deputy Director of Public Works with the City of McAllen.

What made you decide to attend South Texas College?
“After researching various universities, I learned that STC was my best option as it provided the best education, best professors, and more importantly at an affordable price. It offered many courses via internet, making it easy for me to efficiently manage my time.”

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?
“Serving! As a local government employee our ultimate responsibility is to provide essential services to our community while motivating and encouraging employees to perform their best in a safe work environment.”

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?
“Maintaining high standards in everything we do. We pride ourselves in providing our residents with the best services possible while being fiscally responsible.”

What keeps you motivated?
“My mother was always a great inspiration and a positive role-model in my life. She would always tell me that, with God’s help, I can accomplish anything I set my mind to.”

Do you have any advice for current or prospective college students?
“Education is the key to success. Regardless of what position you may be in, an education will give you the opportunity to get to that next level….so take the first step and enroll!”
JUAN CASTILLO recalls his graduation from the Bachelor of Applied Technology Program at South Texas College. “After earning our degrees, Dr. Ali Esmaeili [Dean for Bachelor Programs] told us to spread our wings and fly,” Castillo said. “And that’s exactly what I set out to do.” Castillo serves as the Co-General Manager for Buc-ee’s, Ltd., a chain of Texas-based travel centers considered by many to be the largest and cleanest in the world. Castillo recently graduated cum laude from the University of Houston with a strategic Master of Business Administration (MBA). Prior to this, he worked as a District Sales Manager for Coca-Cola and served in the United States Marine Corps for seven years. With the knowledge and experience Castillo has gained throughout his academic and professional career, he hopes to one day pay it forward and become a college professor.

What was your experience like at STC?
“I gained a real-world experience through STC’s Bachelor of Applied Technology Program. You can tell that many of the professors teaching these courses are career professors with experience in the field. They were able to show us exactly how to apply our knowledge to the work environment.”

What made you decide to attend South Texas College?
“The plant manager at Coca-Cola, named Hector Amaya, now a VP in Houston, told me I had great leadership skills that show from my Marine Corps experience, but was lacking that educational background to get me to the next steps in my life and career. In 2006, I enrolled as a part-time student at STC and graduated four years later.”

How do you stay motivated?
“I want to be someone who was impactful. When you really think about it, we are all building a legacy. The point is to leave something behind you can be proud of. When we think about the people who have impacted us, the ones we remember most are those who left a legacy.”

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?
“The biggest reward is the sense of fulfillment. I am constantly learning something new and evolving within my career. I also love getting to meet new people at our stores. Our motto is ‘clean, friendly and in-stock.’ It’s a unique company and we have great customer service. People love it.”

Do you have any advice for current or prospective college students?
“Success is not easy. It takes hard work. I always like to say, ‘the tallest tree in the forest is just a nut that held its ground.’ Meaning, if you stay rooted and true to yourself, you will find success. Lastly, as a U.S. Veteran, I would encourage other veterans interested in pursuing a college education to take that next step. STC has a Veterans Affairs Office that streamlines the admissions process for us. All it takes is that next step.”
BACHELOR PROGRAM ALUMNI
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Michael Parker
Systems Administrator
McAllen Economic Development Corp.

Associates of Applied Science in Networking Specialist 2005
Bachelors of Applied Technology in Computer Information Technology 2009

Michael serves as the Systems Administrator at the McAllen Economic Development Corporation and has been working on some of the most high-tech systems for the past ten years. This is why Parker, who received an associates degree from South Texas College in 2005, decided to continue his studies here. He completed a Bachelors Degree in Applied Technology in Computer & Information Technologies. He was the first person to sign up for the program once the College was approved to offer it.

Testimonial:
“Working in the CIT field is very challenging and it requires continuous training. This program will provide the skills and knowledge needed to advance to the next level and further benefit my employer.”

Maricela Silva
Grant Development Officer
South Texas College

Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Development 2007
Bachelors of Applied Technology in Technology Management 2008
Masters Degree in Adult Education 2010

Maricela is currently working as the Grant Development Officer at South Texas College. She graduated from South Texas College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Child Development, and a Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree in Technology Management in December 2008. Upon graduation, Maricela enrolled in the Adult Education program at Texas A&M-Kingsville and received a Master of Education Degree in December 2010.

Testimonial:
“The Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) program provided an opportunity that I may otherwise not have had. The convenience of being able to attend classes in the evenings and online allowed me to pursue an education AND keep my full-time job to provide for my family. In addition, since graduating from the program, I have taken what I learned and have developed stronger leadership skills. I have been able to serve STC as a Community Engagement Specialist, which helped me form strong working relationships within the greater community. I am confident that the knowledge and skills I acquired through the BAT program will continue to give me new opportunities for growth in leadership roles.”

Jorge Gonzalez
Real Estate Supervisor
Hidalgo Co. Appraisal District

Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management 2009
Associates Degree

Jorge currently works for the Hidalgo Co. Appraisal District as a Real Estate Supervisor and has a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in Technology Management. After earning his Bachelor degree from STC, Mr. Gonzalez received an immediate promotion at work, which has allowed him to blossom and grow as a professional.

Testimonial:
“All the instructors and staff were so approachable and they were always there to answer my questions and walk me through procedures,” and “It was nice that I was not just a number. Many of the instructors know me by name and those relationships continue to this day as I serve on an advisory committee for the BAT Program.”
Diana Vittitoe
Director of Central Business Office
South Texas Health Systems
Associates in Human Resources 2007
Bachelors of Applied Technology in Technology Management 2008
Masters of Business Administration

Diana is currently the Director of the CBO for the South Texas Health System of Hospitals. She has steadily advanced her career in health care support for the last 12 years through her attainment of an associates, bachelors, and finally a Masters in Business Administration. She has served on the advisory committee for South Texas College’s Human Resources Associates and Certificate Programs. Diana also provides community outreach helping individuals understand their health care rights and options.

Testimonial:
"The Bachelor of Applied Technology is a great educational opportunity for the Valley. It helped me to continue my education in a Masters Degree Program."

Joaquin Becerra
Database Analyst - Instr. Support
South Texas College
Associates of Science in Computer Science
Bachelors of Applied Technology in Computer Information Management 2010

Joaquin is currently a Database Analyst at South Texas College and holds two professional certifications. He is a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) and Oracle Certified Associate (OCA) both in Database Administration. He oversees the college’s ERP system database and provides support for multiple database platforms. Joaquin graduated from South Texas College with an Associate of Science in Computer Science in 2008 and then with a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Computer & Information Technologies in 2010.

Testimonial:
"South Texas College gave me the tools and a strong foundation in information technology to succeed in the professional arena. The educators were friendly, approachable and up-to-date with the latest technology, which became key to my success."

Nancy M. Gonzalez
Student Success Specialist
South Texas College
Associate of Applied Science 2001
Bachelor of Applied Technology Technology Management 2009
Masters in Business Administration 2010
Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership In progress

Nancy began her post-secondary education, which included a work-study position, at South Texas College in 1999. She graduated with her Associates degree in 2001 and continued working in higher education at South Texas VOTECH in Harlingen, Texas. Wanting to continue her education, she looked at and applied for several different Baccalaureate programs and was fortunate to be offered a full scholarship at UTPA. However, when she learned that South Texas College was going to offer a Bachelors of Applied Technology in 2004, she made the choice to attend STC and earned her Bachelors in Applied Technology in 2009. Since then she earned a Masters in Business Administration in 2010 with a focus on Technology Management from the University of Phoenix and has just been accepted into a Ph.D. program in Organizational Leadership.

Testimonial:
Making the choice to attend the Bachelors in Applied Technology program, for me, was a simple one. Unlike other Baccalaureate programs, where I would have had to start from scratch, all the classes I had taken to earn my Associates counted towards my degree. I was able to complete my BAT in Technology Management in 2 years, thanks to the transfer of credit."