

CHANCELLOR LETTER

Dear Industry Partner,

While emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, automation and robotics are reshaping industries, the nation is also facing a workforce shortage of nearly 3 million workers. At the same time, Texas continues to experience strong job growth, with hundreds of thousands of new roles projected across high-demand sectors.

At Dallas College, we believe learning must be embedded directly into work through applied projects, apprenticeships, internships and employer partnerships that allow students to earn credentials while building experience and professional networks. This learner-first approach ensures students do not simply prepare for work but actively participate in it as part of their education.

This philosophy is reflected in our engagement with EDGE North Texas, a regional, industry-led collaboration using the Next Generation Sector Partnerships model. Through EDGE North Texas, employers, educators, workforce organizations and public partners work together to align education and training with real, employer-identified workforce needs across priority sectors, including aerospace and aviation; arts and entertainment; biotech; business and finance; construction; freight, mobility and logistics; healthcare; information technology and manufacturing.

This alignment is strengthened by Dallas College's Labor Market Intelligence Center (LMIC), which uses real-time regional workforce data to guide program development and institutional strategy. Leveraging sources such as Lightcast and Census LODES, our LMIC helps identify high-growth sectors, in-demand occupations and the skills employers need most. These insights ensure our programs lead to credentials of value, support strong wage and employment outcomes for students, and keep Dallas College responsive to the evolving North Texas economy.

At the same time, we are redesigning our systems around the realities of today's learners, particularly working adults. Across the country, more than 43 million Americans have some college experience but no credential, limiting economic mobility for individuals and constraining workforce growth for employers.

In Dallas County alone, three out of four people do not earn a living wage of at least \$50,000. Dallas College students are not immune from this reality, with 77% identified as economically disadvantaged.

Dallas College is addressing this challenge by rebuilding an adult learner ecosystem that reduces barriers and supports completion. This includes embedded work-based learning, textbooks included in tuition, free public transit passes, food pantries and clothing closets, childcare partnerships and strong alignment between credentials and high-wage, high-demand careers.

As one of the largest community colleges in the country, Dallas College serves at the intersection of education and industry. Through partnerships with employers like you, we can ensure education remains relevant, responsive and aligned with real workforce needs.

Best,



Dr. Justin H. Lonon
Chancellor, Dallas College