MISSION

The mission at Austin Innovation Center Petroleum and Refining Academy at Beaumont Early College High School (BECHS) is to provide all students with rigorous, challenging and academic course work that encourages and actively supports high school and college graduation. The vision is to see that every student graduates high school with 60 college credit hours or an associate's degree before moving on to postsecondary success pursuing continued higher education or workplace training. The core values are as follows: Integrity, Scholarship, Humanity, Respect, Responsibility and Kindness.

NOTABLE DIFFERENTIATORS

Students who choose to take courses in the academy have a unique opportunity to earn up to 21 hours in Process Operating Technology and up to 25 hours in Instrumentation Technology. The new labs offer hands-on experiences with the same equipment students will use in the field as future employees. Additionally, the academy helps students network with experts and establish connections for internships. The Southeast Texas area has a high demand for people with skill sets and training in petroleum and refining. The academy was specifically designed to offer students a head start on required coursework and entrance into that job market. Courses completed in the academy are also fully transferable to Lamar University's bachelor of science degree in Industrial Technology.

For more information, call 409.617.6600 or visit bmtisd.com/domain/3028
“Through our program, a student has the ability to come out of high school and get a job making more than their parents are making right now. This [program] has the ability to change the direction for a family and our community.”

-Dr. Miranda Phillips, Director Career Technology and Melanie Pharis, Interim Principal

RESILIENCE INSPIRES DEDICATION TO GOALS

Promising Industry Cluster Innovative Academy (ICIA) progress at BECHS was nearly derailed in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Thanks to the dedication of industry collaborators (ExxonMobil, BASF, Huntsman and Air Products) and the creative flexibility of the higher education partner, the academy was temporarily moved onto the campus of Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) to ensure minimal disruption for students. In only three days, LIT worked out the logistics and identified space to house the whole Early College High School, including the academy, and seamlessly continued support for students on their education pathways. Today, the academy is thriving as a hub for students pursuing careers in petroleum and refining.

BECHS is committed to the early college framework by recruiting and accepting at-risk students, which allows first-generation college students to excel and reach TSI readiness in as early as their sophomore year. Students also often transition from showing little interest in schooling to becoming the most enthusiastic students by gaining a clearer understanding of the opportunities available to them. After attending an instrumentation lab, one student came into the cafeteria overcome with excitement about what he had seen and what he was able to do in the lab. That excitement underscores why this program is so important in supporting students in achieving their lifelong goals.

Keys to Success:

**Partner engagement:** The academy has forged a solid pipeline to higher education opportunities with LIT, offering two-year degrees that are transferable to Lamar University’s bachelor of science degree in Industrial Technology.

**Work-based learning:** All freshmen engage with industry speakers and tour the Air Products plant.

**Academics:** TSI readiness is a priority and 92% of students are TSI ready for courses next year.

In 2017, Educate Texas was appointed by the Texas Education Agency as the technical assistance provider for the Industry Cluster Innovative Academy program. This assistance includes providing leadership coaching to each campus, creating an integrated network of schools, and establishing tools to ensure communication across schools to share learning experiences. Educate Texas, a catalyst for large-scale educational systems change, has partnered with public and private entities for more than a decade to achieve the goal of improving the public and higher education system in Texas so that every student is prepared for and achieves success in school, in the workforce and in life. edtx.org