MISSION

Manor Early College High School (MECHS) provides those students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education with an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and associate’s degree through rigorous academic coursework and well-planned systems of support. The MECHS vision is that every graduate will not only earn a high school diploma and 60 transferable credit hours, but will also embrace a culture of intellectualism, social awareness and productive citizenry.

NOTABLE DIFFERENTIATORS

A bar of very high expectations is set for the students of MECHS. These expectations extend to students’ character, academics, attendance and discipline. The deepest forms of learning take place in a setting that develops students’ self-discipline and self-advocacy. The early college learning community also pushes students to acquire the work-based skills necessary to be successful in any social context—respect, professionalism, punctuality, communication and adherence with standards and policies.

The Manor Industry Connection Academy (MICA) is an innovative program at MECHS designed to teach the advanced manufacturing and robotics skills that are in high demand in the Austin area. This tuition-free program allows students to concurrently earn associate’s degrees with their high school diplomas, providing graduates the ability to directly enter the workforce if they choose to do so. Furthermore, MICA graduates have first-in-line interview opportunities with Samsung and Applied Materials through the district’s partnerships with leading technology companies.

For more information, call 512.278.4650 or visit tinyurl.com/manorechs
"There is a culture of collaboration among students. They push each other to work hard...They don’t let each other fail."

- Terri Osborne, MECHS Director

## "NO BARRIERS" COLLABORATION FUELS SUCCESS

Along with partners Samsung and Applied Materials, MECHS has worked with Austin Community College to develop a collaborative student career pathway. The Industry Cluster Innovative Academy (ICIA) enabled these partners to start fresh with a co-developed course pathway that maximizes readiness. For example, students now attain Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification in ninth grade to alleviate many of the traditional barriers to on-site job shadowing experiences. The collaborative team in Manor has exemplified a “no barriers” mindset for student success.

## Keys to Success:

### Partner engagement:
Samsung and Applied Materials are committed to providing mentors, hosting students on-site for learning experiences, developing internship opportunities and giving first-in-line interviews to qualified students upon graduation.

### Work-based learning:
Ninth grade students will have one on-site learning experience at each industry partner, and, by twelfth grade, all students will have engaged in an internship opportunity.

### Academics:
Students are provided with weekly academic interventions in partnership with Austin Community College dual-credit instructors and Texas Gear-Up.

One student was about a year and a half into the program and not sure what he wanted to do. Another student encouraged him to take Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Math and enter the MICA for automation and robotics. After completing TSI Math, he began taking college courses in robotics with labs. Proud of his newfound success, the student often visits the office to share his work and what he is presenting in his classes. He has a new energy and confidence, and attends tutoring to get the support he needs to be successful. Teachers and staff have seen the program light a fire in him that was not there before. The student was recently matched with his industry mentor, who will be a connection throughout the remainder of high school, and will help in securing an internship to continue his hands-on learning experience.

### Student Spotlight

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