



DAN FLYNN

★ DISTRICT 2 ★

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Contact: Amanda Robertson
Phone: (512) 463-0880

Commerce ISD Receives Grant Award for Alternative Education Programs

AUSTIN - On Monday the Texas Department of Agriculture awarded Commerce ISD with \$124,000 in grant funding from the Parallel Pathways to Success Grant Program. Aimed toward incentivizing public schools in rural parts of Texas with funding mechanisms to provide alternative, more flexible types of education focused on career and technical trainings, Parallel Pathways has provided more than \$750,000 in awards to rural Texas schools.

Representative Dan Flynn (R-Van) commends the Department of Agriculture for recognizing the importance of providing those alternative avenues for high school students interested in technical or trade careers and not necessarily a traditional four year college degree. "If schools can capture the attention and eagerness of students and guide them through more technical, career focused curriculum, we will develop a workforce that will not only meet the demands of their respective industries, but capitalize on their earning potential within their field," said Flynn. Students that participate in the program will have the opportunity to concurrently earn a high school diploma and vocational skills certifications or college credit towards an Associate's or Bachelor's degree.

"The grant program provides a qualified local labor force for local employers and creates additional post-secondary options for high school students. Increasing the skill set of workers within a rural community enhances the opportunity for new local economic development and helps to established long term growth for that region. I appreciate the hard work and diligence of Commerce ISD Superintendent Blake Cooper and his staff on this project and I feel they are in a position to achieve great results for Hunt County and Commerce."

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