

# ***HCC Workforce Summit initiates dialogue with Stafford Businesses for innovative solutions***

HOUSTON, TX (May 12, 2010) – The first of the Workforce Summit series initiated and hosted by HCC Trustee Neeta Sane, District VII on Thursday, May 6 at the HCC Stafford Campus sought valuable community input to better align the HCC educational offerings with the regional needs in terms of workforce and economic solutions. The Summit in HCC District VII brought together industry leaders, elected officials and emerging business executives from Stafford to begin a dialogue about the workforce needs in the area. The Honorable Leonard Scarcella, Mayor of Stafford addressed the group and provided an update on the city's impressive record of growth and opportunity.

“We are committed to meeting the business needs of the community through education and training, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue we began last week with industry leaders and other stakeholders to help build an even stronger economy in Stafford,” said Neeta Sane, Trustee, District VII, Vice-Chair, HCC Board.

Summit participants provided suggestions on ways that HCC can partner to help expand Stafford businesses through education and training, which ultimately benefits the local community and the economy. Because of the participation of the attendees, the Summit was successful and provided HCC with valuable insight that will be used as we continue to develop innovative approaches to meet the educational and workforce needs of District VII.

In today's economy, access to post-secondary education and training is essential for individual career success. Estimates indicate that 80 percent of today's new jobs require education or training beyond high school and that those jobs represent the fastest-growing and highest-paying segments of the new economy.

The Workforce Summit was a valuable opportunity to work with stakeholders in the community to collaborate on ways to build a stronger regional economy.