

FORT BEND INDEPENDENT

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HCC hosts workforce summit



Neeta Sane and Leonard Scarcella

The first of the Houston Community College Workforce Summit series, initiated and hosted by HCC Trustee Neeta Sane, was held Thursday, May 6 at the HCC Southwest Stafford Campus. The summit sought valuable community input to better align the HCC educational offerings with regional needs in terms of workforce and economic solutions.

Bringing together industry leaders, elected officials and emerging business executives from Stafford, the summit explored the workforce and education needs of the area.

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 Sane, Trustee for District VII and HCC Board Vice-Chair.

Summit participants provided suggestions on ways that HCC can partner with Stafford businesses to help them expand through education and training, which ultimately benefits the local community and the economy.

Because of the active participation of the attendees, the summit provided HCC with valuable ideas that will help in the development of innovative programs that 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.