

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LUBBOCK
ECONOMIC
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LEDA Grants LISD Funds for Structural Renovations & Program Expansion for the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center

(LUBBOCK) - The Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA) Board voted unanimously to grant \$800,000 to the Lubbock Independent School District (LISD) to assist in the cost of renovations at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center (ATC), as well as in the expansion of its technical programs. The decision was made during LEDA's board meeting on March 1, 2017.

Currently, involving South Plains College, LISD and a number of community partners, the Byron Martin ATC delivers cooperative technical education programs to support the development of a skilled and highly trained workforce for Lubbock and the South Plains Region. As more students expressed interest in participating in the programs and classes offered at the center, the need also arose for more space and equipment according to Berhl Robertson, Jr., Superintendent of Lubbock ISD.

"This grant gives us the ability to serve more students at the Byron Martin ATC, as we provide more opportunities for our students and a well-trained workforce for our community," Robertson said. "We value our partnership with LEDA and are so appreciative of their investment in our career and technical education programs."

During the summer of 2017, South Plains College will vacate approximately 25,000 square feet within the Byron Martin ATC and move to the South Plains College Lubbock Center. LISD will then begin Phase I of the renovation and expansion of the Byron Martin ATC. In addition to replacing computer cabling and wiring for fiber optics, LISD expand the welding technology program and implement three new programs for students.

"The welding program will be moved into a new 6,000 square foot state-of-the-art welding technology lab," said Jill Berset, director of career and technical education for Lubbock ISD. "The center will also construct a 4,200 square foot advanced culinary arts lab and a new floral design lab. The ATC will also implement a new law enforcement program."

The renovation is expected to take five months. The expansion of the center's programs will be available to students in August of 2017.

"One of our primary goals outlined in LEDA's strategic plan is to grow our labor pool and keep students in Lubbock," said John Osborne, president and CEO of the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance. "It is vital that we continue to support the Byron Martin ATC's technical programs and instructional efforts as we equip a new generation to enter the workforce with the

highly technical skills needed for high-demand jobs. We appreciate our cooperative partnership with LISD and South Plains College to continue to develop these exciting opportunities for our students.”

For more information regarding the center, visit lubbockisd.org/atc or call 806.219.2800.

About LEDA

Since its inception in 2004, LEDA has assisted 140 companies with their expansion or relocation to Lubbock. These companies committed to creating 6,283 jobs and investing more than \$531 million in new capital improvements that have resulted in \$1.2 billion in cumulative economic impact to the Lubbock area.

About The Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center

The Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center is a truly unique educational venture involving a number of community partners. This facility opened in August 1997 in a technologically state-of-the-art building through the cooperative efforts of Market Lubbock, Inc., South Plains College, and Lubbock ISD. The ATC offers classes for students from each of the high schools in Lubbock ISD. We are focused on giving every student access to a truly complete education, with an emphasis on College & Career Readiness.

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