



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEDA and LISD Announce Program Expansion Plans at Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center

(LUBBOCK) – Today, the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA) announced their plans to grant the Lubbock Independent School District (LISD) and Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center (ATC) \$30,431 to purchase additional manufacturing equipment for the Byron Martin ATC’s district manufacturing program.

LISD has continued to see increased interest by students to participate in the manufacturing program. However, due to lack of equipment and space, LISD had to turn 50 students away from the program just in this last year alone. In turn, Lubbock’s manufacturing industry continues to struggle with finding skilled labor to meet their workforce needs. The manufacturing program at Byron Martin ATC provides the necessary education and certifications required by the manufacturing industry.

When the team at LEDA learned of the opportunity to give more students the chance to participate in the district manufacturing program, they saw a win-win situation.

“LEDA is excited to assist the Byron Martin ATC in this arena as we strive to grow our labor pool and provide students with the opportunity to live and work in Lubbock upon graduation,” John Osborne, president and CEO of LEDA, said. “The purchase of the manufacturing equipment will allow the Byron Martin ATC to increase the student capacity by 20 percent, thus assisting in meeting the local manufacturing industry’s workforce needs.”

Lubbock ISD will use the funds to purchase four dual-process welding stations, two aluminum welders and an additional lathe for the manufacturing program. LISD has also added an additional instructor within the manufacturing program to meet student course requests.

“The additional equipment provided by this LEDA grant will help us make the most efficient use of our space and train students to continue to meet the workforce needs of our regional manufacturing partners,” said Superintendent Berhl Robertson, Jr. He added, “The collaboration between the ATC Manufacturing Advisory Committee, LEDA and Lubbock ISD administration,

has put us in a strong position to launch students into excellent careers and meet the needs of local business.”

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About LEDA

Since its inception in 2004, LEDA has assisted 123 companies with their expansion or relocation to Lubbock. These companies committed to creating 5,394 jobs and investing more than \$396 million in new capital improvements that have resulted in \$5.5 billion in cumulative economic impact to the Lubbock area.