

Preparing for OC's future

Odessa College has served the community for more than 64 years offering a varied and extensive number of educational programs designed to meet the needs and dreams of its students and its community.

"Whatever your needs, whatever skills you're trying to acquire, we feel we can help you, and that's what motivates us and what keeps us moving forward as a community college," said Dr. Gregory Williams, OC president.

Whether you are preparing to transfer to a four-year university, seeking a two-year degree or certification to enter the workforce quickly, or looking to retrain or add additional skills to a current résumé, Odessa College can help you achieve that goal.

One of the key services Odessa College provides to its community is a quality workforce.

"Part of our mission is to provide that educated and trained workforce for the Odessa community," Williams said. "We pride ourselves on being the community's college and that means that we have to help the community meet its workforce needs."

Medical Center Hospital CEO Bill Webster looks to Odessa College to help him staff the hospital with allied health professionals.

"Nationally there's a shortage of allied health professionals including nurses. We're very blessed in Odessa to have a solid nursing program at Odessa College," Webster said. "We're also fortunate that we have that training resource in our own community. It's very obvious to me that a huge percentage of our staff, our nurses, our technicians come from Odessa College, so OC is a vital resource to the medical community and to Medical Center Hospital in particular."



Alice Roman, first year OC nursing student, pauses for a break between classes.

Another Odessa business leader whose company requires a skilled workforce, Collin Sewell, president of Sewell Family of Dealerships, also looks to Odessa College to help fulfill his company's workforce needs.

"Probably the biggest underserved industry is the automotive technology and

automotive repair world. It is a tremendous career field with great opportunities for students who are graduating from high school to consider," Sewell said. "Odessa College provides an avenue for students to improve their skills and we're then able to hire technicians who have begun their training through OC."

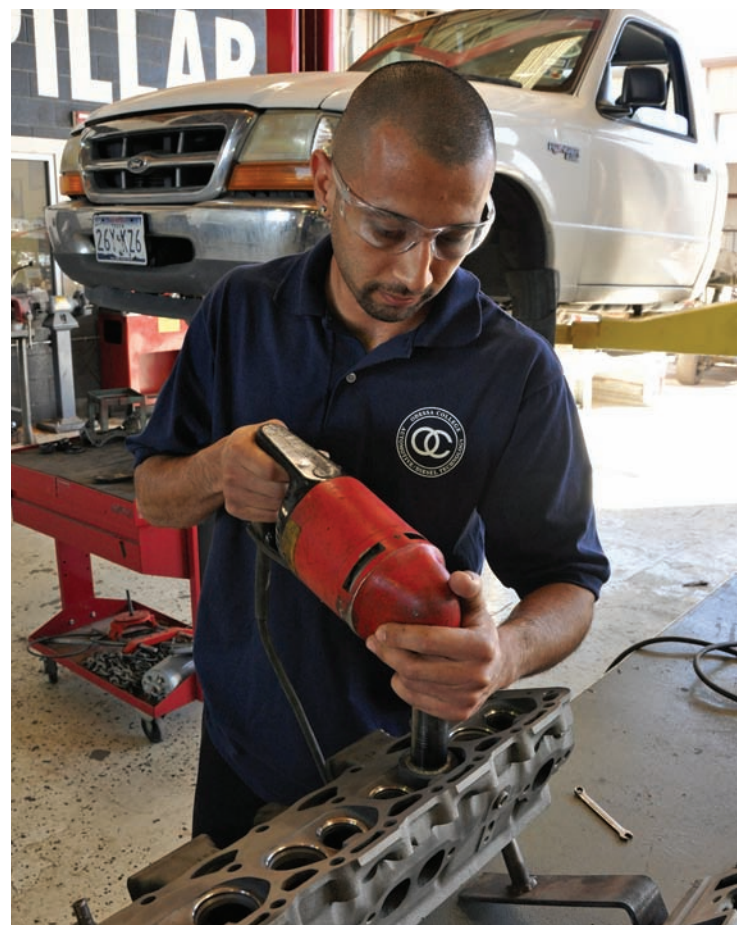
According to Dr. Williams, "We're striving to enhance our campus overall. We need to make it more attractive. We need to make it better."

"We have some facilities that are not attractive to our potential students and that hurts us especially when they are looking at career and technical education fields. Considering that transportation is a rapidly changing industry, we need to have a vehicle transportation center that is flexible enough to handle not only the hybrid technology of today, but also the trucks and automobiles of tomorrow. In our nursing and allied health programs, we need to have labs that parallel hospitals as closely as possible so students are well-prepared when they begin their work in a clinical environment," Williams said.

He further stated that after conducting an 18-month-long survey of Odessa residents and business leaders, Odessa College learned that the community wants additional career and technical programs, more health professionals and nurses, more emergency services, including fire, EMT and paramedic, more space in university transfer programs, and classrooms and training that mirror the real world. Phase One of the Odessa College Facilities Master Plan, which would be funded by the bond measure, will enable OC to continue

meeting that demand.

"We have to make sure that we have the tools and instruments that mirror what industries are using. We need to have inviting classrooms. We need to make sure we have an environment that can hold their attention as well as the space and technology to make that happen. We have to be on the cutting edge," Williams concluded.



Michael Galindo, OC automotive technology student grinds the valve seats on an automotive engine cylinder head.

Sewell said he believes three areas – economic development, cultural growth and the opportunity for a "great" education – drive the success or failure of a community. "The reality is that a community is built on the success of its educational opportunities, and Odessa College's programs play a role in encouraging people from West Texas to stay in West Texas. When students who grow up here choose to become educated here and raise a family here, that is how you lift up an entire community," he said.

Community leader and former Odessa Mayor Lorraine Perryman agreed saying she believes there is no separation between the health, well-being and growth of a community and the health, well-being and growth of its educational systems. She emphasized the fact that where people pursue their higher education is where they tend to reside after they graduate, and keeping all our citizens that are pursuing higher education at Odessa College – whether in a career, technical or general academic background – is very important.

"The city of Odessa is very proud of Odessa College, she added. "We know what a jewel we have in this community. It's time now for Odessans to step up and support what our community needs, and what our community needs is an Odessa College that can meet our needs for career training, for technical training and for general education in Odessa not only now, but in the future."



PHASE ONE

- **The New Student Life Center** will centralize student enrollment services, financial aid, the student health clinic, student organizations, the career center, testing, food services, and the bookstore
- **A Lifelong Learning Center Addition to the Fine Arts Building** will consolidate Continuing Education programs to one place on campus
- **A New Fire Training Center and Fire Training Tower** will allow for real-world fire training as well as space for expanded Emergency Services training
- **The New Vehicle Technology Center** will provide more space for expanded training in Automotive, Diesel, and Auto Body Technology programs
- Academic and University Transfer Programs will benefit from a **New Math and Science Building and Renovations to Wilkerson Hall** to expand basic classes

Twenty Year Master Plan

