WHO:
The Community College Petrochemical Initiative (CCPI) began with a $500,000 grant from ExxonMobil in June 2013 to fund workforce development for the Houston-area petrochemical industry. Lee College in Baytown, Texas, is the lead institution for the grant. Other workforce training partners include: Alvin Community College, Brazosport College, College of the Mainland, Galveston College, Houston Community College, Lone Star College, San Jacinto College and Wharton County Junior College.

WHAT:
The Community College Petrochemical Initiative is a collaboration of nine Texas Gulf Coast Area Community Colleges to recruit and train the next generation of petrochemical and industrial trades workers for the Houston-Galveston region. A united vision and direction of the partnership is made through the CCPI Steering Committee, consisting of workforce development leaders from each participating college.

Targets for 2018-2019 are:
• Increase public awareness of the lucrative careers available in petrochemical and industrial trades through advertising, social media, special events, and pro-active news articles and media relations activities
• Promote petrochemical careers to the public school districts
• Expand a technical faculty recruitment and training program
• Host the fourth annual Women in Industry Conference on January 30, 2019, at Moody Gardens Conference Center, to recruit and advance women in petrochemical and industrial trades careers, and promote diversity in the industry
• Promote the CCPI “jobs training” portal: EnergizeHouston.org
• Increase the number of scholarships to students seeking training for petrochemical and industrial trade careers
• Host the 2018 CCPI Scholarship Recipient Luncheon to recognize and celebrate current scholarship recipients from each of the nine member colleges
• Collaborate with other regional workforce initiatives

WHEN:
Announcement of the ExxonMobil CCPI grant was made on June 7, 2013, at a press conference held at the office of Greater Houston Partnership in Houston. Since then, ExxonMobil has contributed an additional $1.3 million—for a total of $1.8 million—and extended the grant through August 2019.

WHY:
An aging workforce and billions of dollars in plant expansions along the Texas Gulf Coast means opportunities for new workers in the petrochemical industry. The industry estimates it will need tens of thousands of construction and permanent workers over the next decade.