

Who needs what . . . and why?

. . . and who says so?

Corpus Christi is the largest metropolitan area in Texas without a state-supported college or university.

Many smaller cities, including Lubbock, Beaumont, Wichita Falls, San Angelo and McAllen-Edinburg have state schools, and a new one has been authorized for the Permian Basin.

The Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, has recommended that a state-supported upper-level (junior, senior and graduate years) college be established in Corpus Christi.

The Coordinating Board reports that less than 22 per cent of the college-eligible population in Nueces County actually attends college, as compared with a state-wide average of more than 26 per cent, and an average of more than 36 per cent in Kleberg County, the home of Texas A&I University.

Corpus Christi needs a state-supported college because so many boys and girls here, for economic reasons, must live at home and hold a job while they go to school.

Why an upper-level college?

Del Mar College, one of the top-rated community junior colleges in the United States, provides excellent freshman and sophomore college curricula.

Furthermore, Del Mar is locally governed, and many of the courses it offers are tailored to meet community needs.

An upper-level college would not duplicate the educational opportunities provided by Del Mar, but it would permit many more Corpus Christi boys and girls to continue their education beyond the junior-college level.

It would enable boys and girls who must live at home and work their way through school to continue their college education.

One of the best upper-level colleges in the nation is the University of West Florida, which provides junior, senior and graduate-level education for boys and girls who have completed their freshman and sophomore years at Pensacola Junior College or at other junior colleges in the Pensacola area.

The principal advantage of an upper-level college is that it avoids costly duplication of tax-supported educational facilities and at the same time permits the community to retain the unique advantages of its locally-controlled public junior college.