

FROM STATE SENATOR RONALD BRIDGES
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS A&I UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION:

I urge you to reconsider your opposition to the new college proposed for Corpus Christi by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System. I can readily understand your loyalty to Texas A&I, but opposing the Corpus Christi facility is neither in the best interests of A&I nor in the interest of educational planning for the people of Nueces County and all of Texas.

Surely it must be evident that there is a very real need for a state-supported college in Corpus Christi. It is one of the state's major metropolitan areas. It is a rapidly-growing industrial center. It needs an educational institution tailored to its needs, and its residents need a college they can afford to attend.

Consider that only 21.5 percent of people of college age in Nueces County attend college, as against the state average of 27 percent. But in Kleberg County, where Texas A&I is located, the figure is 37 percent. This raises serious doubts whether A&I can adequately serve the needs of the people of Corpus Christi. The fact is that the difference reflected in these percentages is made up of people who cannot afford to commute daily to Kingsville to attend college. In order to go to college at all, they must work a large part of the day, and they have neither the time nor the money to commute. The matter of two hours and a dollar or more a day in gasoline and car costs may seem slight to many, but it is a very real problem to one on a student's budget, who is trying to