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**ECISD Announces Strategic Partnership with Odessa Regional Medical Center, Medical Center Health System, Texas Tech – Family Practice of Odessa, Odessa College and Star Tech Group to Strengthen Student Engagement**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Odessa, TX June 15, 2018:** ECISD, Odessa College and Ector County Medical Institution's strategic, ground-breaking partnership's focus is to strengthen the engagement of students in education in a "21<sup>st</sup> Century experiential learning" model that connects value of education to jobs and careers.

Student engagement tends to drop significantly along the elementary to middle to high school pathway. Essential skills for student engagement and career success can be strengthened with a systemic focus on the "Four Cs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century" i.e. Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Creative skillsets. "ACCESS @ ECISD" is designed to strengthen middle school student's capability to handle cutting-edge technology applications, improve communication, develop life/work skills, and establish career awareness to enter high school with confidence. These skills strengthen the student's learning ability with increased engagement in the STEAM subjects.

The 6 Commitments of Odessa College are framed in a "College-2-Career" model with the goal of "increasing the college going and college completing culture" among the students of Ector County. ACCESS integration into the 6 Commitments is designed around our mission to "align and impact" by partnering with Odessa Regional Medical Center, Medical Center Health System and Texas Tech Health Sciences – Family & Community Medicine.

World-class professionals at these medical institutions provide mentorship and career advice in a cutting-edge, cloud based "Avatar Career" application. Professionals working at these institutions collaborate for on-site lectures and health check-ups at the Middle School campuses of ECISD utilizing "Avatar Collaboration" & "Avatar Health". The Access project at all the Middle Schools is connected via the "Avatar Gateway".

Star Tech Group provides the technology aspect for this initiative. Odessa College and Star Care Health Services are providing the funding to implement this project at no cost to ECISD.

Collaborating institutional leaders have shared their commitment to support ECISD principles of Academic Excellence, College & Career Readiness, Safe & Supportive Learning Environments, and Purposeful Timely 2-way Communication. "ACCESS @ ECISD is a game-changer bringing about a true 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning experience to the students of ECISD, which is only made possible by the extraordinary support and engagement of the world-class institutions in this community and we are all very grateful for their leadership and their support" according to Mr. Ravi Shakamuri, CEO of Star Tech Group.

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