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## Engineering credits available for H.S. students

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AUSTIN, Texas (KXAN) -- There is an easier way help sons or daughters get into a Texas college if they are looking at a career in engineering.

As a part of its 'Blueprint for Educational Change,' a group called the '[E3 Alliance](#)' in Austin has forged a way for students to get college credit at three Texas higher education institutions.

The credit is available to students interested in taking engineering classes.

Texas State is one of the participating schools along with similar programs at Texas Tech and Austin Community College.

Texas State University is looking to grow its 300 student [Ingram School of Engineering](#) by offering up to six credit hours that would transfer from twelve high schools here in Central Texas.

"We think that the accreditation will help us in terms of a competitive advantage," said Texas State Engineering Professor Harold Stern. "But we also think it will help the state in terms of increasing the number of engineers and that will in turn help the economy."

Companies in Central Texas are on board with the credit program .

"The kinds of jobs you get after taking these courses is really good," said Ray Almgren, National Instruments Vice President of Developer and Academic Relations.

Almgren said companies in Central Texas like National Instruments are ready to pay engineering graduates well.

"You have to pay well in a high tech economy to get the kind of talent and retain the kind of talent that you need to be successful," said Almgren.

Students can earn the credits through a sequence of courses in a high school program called 'Project Lead the Way.'

At McNeil High School teacher, Lisa Windolph, started her engineering classes Tuesday.

"50 to 60 percent of the kids that graduate the program as seniors go right into four-year engineering programs," said Windolph, who formerly worked as an engineer at IBM.

"Let me tell you, we have parents that ask about this all the time," said Windolph when asked of the option of college credit for Texas schools.

The new opportunities for students came from the work of leaders with the E3 Alliance. The group, which stands for "Education Equals Economics," said the opportunities are some of the first steps in its '[Blueprint for Educational Change](#)."

"We want them all to be prepared for a workforce in the 21st century," said E3 Alliance Executive Director Susan Dawson. "This is just one means to get them there."

The Blueprint for Educational Change, with specific goals and objectives, is focused to help students become college and career-ready.

As for the engineering credits, the students must take the courses outlined in their curriculum, and attend a "Project Lead the Way" participating school.

Those schools include: Georgetown High School, Akins High School, LBJ High School, Lake Travis High School, Vista Ridge High School, McNeil High School, Wimberley High School, A.J. Moore Academy, Manor New Tech High School, Lehman High School, Del Valle High School and Jack C. Hays High School.



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