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**SENATOR LARRY TAYLOR JOINS LT. GOVERNOR DAN PATRICK TO ANNOUNCE NEW INITIATIVE  
*EDUCATION-WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR TEXAS STUDENTS***

(Houston, TX)... Today, Senator Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) joined Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick in Houston at Lone Star College Energy and Manufacturing Institute to announce a new statewide model called Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH). These innovative schools are designed to prepare students for careers that require more education and training than a high school diploma.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues in the legislature on this exciting high school concept," said Senator Larry Taylor. "Our responsibility is to help ensure that Texas schoolchildren have access to programs that enable them to become productive citizens. My hope is that the P-TECH model will provide more options for our students and enhance our workforce."

The P-TECH model depends on strong partnerships between students, higher education and local industry. The model utilizes mentorships and guidance for students to prepare them for well-paying jobs in the community upon graduation. The P-TECH design builds on the work of House Bill 5, passed by the legislature in 2013, which created endorsements for high school students.

"I am proud to announce that Texas is going farther to improve our workforce needs, while enhancing our education system," said Lt. Governor Patrick. "Chairman Larry Taylor of the Senate Education Committee and Chairman Kel Seliger of the Senate Higher Education Committee have both been tasked with looking for ways to get students into the workforce faster. We all agree that P-TECH should be part of the solution."

"This initiative is about building partnerships between school districts, higher education institutions and business employers so that we can transition our students from the classroom to careers," continued Patrick. "Together, we can continue to keep Texas ahead of the curve."

Sen. Larry Taylor represents Senate District 11, comprised of parts of Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris Counties. Before his election to the Texas Senate in 2012, Sen. Taylor served five terms in the Texas House of Representatives. <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/members/dist11/dist11.htm>

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