



Commissioner Mike Uriegas and Dimmit County Judge Frank Ponce met with the University of Texas of San Antonio College of Architecture, Construction and Planning (CACAP) to develop a Master Plan to attract New Economic Developments to Dimmit County.

Dimmit County Partners with UTSA College of Architecture, Construction and Planning (CACAP) to Develop an Economic Development Master Plan

The University of Texas College of Architecture, Construction and Planning (CACAP) Professor Sue Ann Pemberton, County Judge Frank Ponce and Commissioner Mike Uriegas have been holding discussions in the development of a Master Plan for Future Economic Development Projects.

CACAP will be working alongside the Middle Rio Grande Development Council's (MRGC) Planning and Operations Department to coordinate and facilitate the development of the Master Plan.

The Master Plan will include the existing recreational facilities that Dimmit County currently owns and operates that include the Dimmit County Rodeo Area and Convention Center, the Dimmit County Recreational Park, and the Dimmit County Golf Course.

There is an opportunity to create an "Family –Friendly" atmosphere where our residents and visitors can enjoy a day of playing golf, have family picnics, organize sports events, hold family reunions, weddings or take a jog around the park for exercise. Our plan is simply to incorporate

all that the County had invested in and market it to attract new businesses and economic development to our County.



Professor Juana Salazar (middle) and Sue Ann Pemberton (right) along with College of Architecture 3rd and 4th Year Students met with Dimmit County officials to discuss development of a Master Plan for attracting new Economic Developments and Tourism.

The plan also includes the design for a housing complex and apartments, a restaurant at the golf course, an RV Park Section, a water park at the recreation area for the kids to cool off in the hot summer days and the reconstruction of the existing golf club and new landscaping. “Our vision has always been to create an area in Dimmit County that our residents and visitors can enjoy and hold events”. By developing a Master Plan, we can then focus in applying for State and Federal funding opportunities and also generate economic development interest by private investors”, stated Judge Ponce.

The Rodeo and Convention Center will generate outside interest for state agencies to hold conferences and regional meetings and incorporate the surrounding amenities in planning their events. The lack of affordable housing has always been in issue and the idea of developing a housing complex and incorporate it into the master plan would be a welcomed by outsiders wanting to move to Carrizo Springs, such as teachers, oil and gas executives, law enforcement , business managers, and first time home buyers.

Professor Pemberton is excited about working alongside the Dimmit County Judge, County Commissioners and MRGDC, to develop this master plan that they can use as a tool to attract new economic development ventures to Dimmit County. We appreciate the opportunity for UTSA to work with the County of Dimmit and look forward to generating ideas and developing a master plan; stated Professor Pemberton.

Professor Sue Ann Pemberton was recently recognized by AIA San Antonio and received the 2017 Community Partner Award for community service. As the first architect to lead the San Antonio Conservation Society as President, Pemberton worked tirelessly to advance their mission of historic preservation. In her role as the chair of UTSA's Center for Community Engagement, Pemberton founded STAR – Students Together Achieving Revitalization, an innovative new approach to hand-on community design and preservation. As a professor at UTSA she engages her students in real-world issues in her Design Studios partnering with Texas Coalition against Human Trafficking, Youth Transitioning into Adulthood, St. John's Academy and Madonna Neighborhood Center. Her Norogachi Field Schools in Mexico immersed students in a design and build a school in a mountain culture devoid of modern amenities. Every one of Pemberton's projects involves partnership, cooperation and community dialogue.