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Austin Community College buys 98 acres in Elgin

Austin Business Journal

Less than a week after **buying a 100-acre plot in Leander**, the **Austin Community College District** inked a deal to buy a similarly-sized property in Elgin.

The community college district said the 98 acres in two parcels will house the future Elgin-Austin Community College campus, if the city is annexed into the ACC taxing district.

“Elgin is a growing area, and ACC’s Master Plan calls for building a campus that will expand access to higher education and training opportunities in the community,” ACC President and CEO Stephen B. Kinslow said.

The school said it is not releasing selling price information in order to preserve taxpayers’ bargaining position in other land purchases currently in negotiation.

Elgin ISD is one of five in Central Texas considering joining the ACC taxing district, along with Hays, Bastrop, McDade ISD and San Marcos CISD. A committee of Elgin ISD residents – led by locals David Glass and Bill Satterfield – is collecting signatures in an effort to put annexation on the ballot there in November. Annexed districts are allowed lower tuition costs in exchange for a slight property tax increase.

“ACC’s land-banking strategy is a forward-looking effort to acquire potential campus sites within the college’s 7,000-square mile, eight-county service area,” Kinslow said. “Changing demographics as well as increasing demand for workforce degrees and certificates are driving dramatic enrollment increases.”

The college expects to complete the first phase of the Elgin's campus construction in 2014, if the annexation effort is successful this November.