

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Newly Constructed Elliff-El Sauz Education Center to Host Students for Behind the Gates Education Program, welcomes new sponsors**

San Antonio, TX – January 27, 2022 – The Elliff-El Sauz Education Center is a newly constructed facility on the East Foundation’s El Sauz ranch near Port Mansfield, Texas, designed to immerse students in experiential outdoor education. The facility is expected to host more than 1,500 students, grades K-12, annually from across South Texas. The inaugural Behind the Gates event will take place February 7-11, 2022.

Students will learn about land stewardship, ecology, wildlife management and conservation from East Foundation educators and partner organization volunteers. Situated directly in the midst of the diverse native habitat and rangeland on the ranch, the site includes a large main pavilion and six smaller pavilions serving as covered learning stations connected by a nature trail.

“The program has already had an enormous impact on South Texas students and their teachers, and the demand from regional schools continues to grow,” said the East Foundation’s Director of Education Tina Buford. “We are seeking additional partners to help us educate thousands of new students from across the region who will gain vital understanding of the natural world, while also gaining valuable TEKS-aligned science, vocational and leadership skills critical to their future success.”

The Education Center is named after lead sponsor Elliff, whose family of South Texas companies includes Elliff Motors, Elliff Trailers, Elliff Polaris, Elliff Kubota and a partnership in Boswell Elliff Ford.

“We are very excited about partnering with the East Foundation to promote conservation and education for the communities we serve,” notes Bill Elliff.

In addition, East Foundation is happy to announce the addition of our two newest supporters of the Elliff- El Sauz Education Center: Texas Regional Bank (TRB) and Enbridge, Inc. Both organizations recognize the importance of providing hands-on, outdoor educational opportunities to students in order to instill land stewardship principals and foster an appreciation for South Texas.

Texas Regional Bank contributed as a Patron Sponsor to the El Sauz Education Site. With community, success, innovation, and vision as the core values of the institution, TRB aligns with the East Foundation mission of doing what's right for the land and the life that depends on it.

We're proud to support the East Foundation in their effort to connect students in South Texas with the beautiful wildlife and the land around us." said Michael Scaief, Chairman and CEO of Texas Regional Bank. "Exposing students to nature is one of the best ways to inspire good stewardship of our natural resources, so we believe strongly in this mission and support it passionately."

In October 2021, East Foundation was approved for the Enbridge Fueling Futures Grant as a Patron Sponsor for the El Sauz Education Site. The Fueling Futures program aims to energize communities through corporate donations and strategic partnerships, sponsorships, and employee volunteering and giving program. Enbridge believes in investing in and strengthening the sustainability of communities across North America.

"Enbridge Fueling Futures supports initiatives that contribute to a sustainable future through supporting environmental education," said Aly Root, Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, Southeast Region. "We are proud to create opportunities for students across South Texas to learn about conservation and stewardship."

East Foundation is grateful to add Enbridge and Texas Regional Bank to our list of Education Program and Facility supporters. Thank you to our existing sponsors: Elliff, Makena, Frost Bank, Roy W. & Ellen S. Quillin Foundation, Wildlife Systems, H. Yturria Family, and Las Huellas.

## **About the East Foundation**

The East Foundation promotes the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. We manage over 217,000 acres of native South Texas rangeland, operated as six separate ranches in Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, and Willacy counties. The lands were bestowed to the Foundation through the generous gift of the East family in 2007. To honor their legacy, we uphold their vision and values that were established more than a century ago.

## **About Enbridge**

Enbridge Inc. is a leading North American energy infrastructure company. We safely and reliably deliver the energy people need and want to fuel quality of life. Our core businesses include Liquids Pipelines, which transports approximately 25 percent of the crude oil produced in North America; Gas Transmission and Midstream, which transports approximately 20 percent of the natural gas consumed in the U.S.; Gas Distribution and Storage, which serves approximately 3.8 million retail customers in Ontario and Quebec; and Renewable Power Generation, which generates approximately 1,766 MW of net renewable power in North America and Europe. The Company's common shares trade on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges under the symbol ENB. For more information, visit [www.enbridge.com](http://www.enbridge.com).

## **About Texas Regional Bank**

Established in 2010, Texas Regional Bank is headquartered in Harlingen, Texas, with 21 banking centers and one loan production office in the Rio Grande Valley and Texas Hill Country. As of June 30, 2021, Texas Regional Bank reported total assets of \$1.7 billion, deposits of \$1.5 billion and loans of \$762 million. TRB offers core banking services, trust, wealth management, mortgage, international banking, foreign exchange, and public finance. For more Texas Regional Bank information, visit [www.texasregionalbank.com](http://www.texasregionalbank.com).

For more information on our work, visit [www.eastfoundation.net](http://www.eastfoundation.net).

### **Media Contact:**

James Powell, Director of Communications

210-430-4447

[jpowell@eastfoundation.net](mailto:jpowell@eastfoundation.net)

###