



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University Center Receives Third Industry Award

Harlingen, Texas (December 22, 2011) -- University Center located on the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Harlingen campus received a regional Award of Merit in the Green Project category for 2011 from the Engineering News-Record (ENR) magazine.

Among some of the other awards the building has earned are, the Excellence in Construction Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors Inc. (ABC)-South Texas Chapter, which represents first place among institutional projects south of San Antonio. The University Center also was nominated for the nationwide Excellence in Construction Award from ABC and it ranked second among more than 200 entries as it received an Award of Merit in the institutional category. The ABC's Awards of Excellence Program is the premier competition within the construction industry. The facility is also a candidate for review to receive Gold Certification for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) from the U.S. Green Building Council. "Numerous entities and individuals made this award possible," said TSTC Harlingen President Dr. Cesar Maldonado of the building jointly funded by the College and the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation. "The building is a prominent symbol of higher education opportunities for students and a model of the benefits from university collaboration."

Some of the energy conservation features at the University Center that made it possible to receive the awards include, a high-albedo roof that supports 442 solar panels to provide up to 106 kilowatts of electricity, a sun-shaded curtain wall, and reclaimed wood for walls and ceilings taken from military barracks at the former Harlingen Air Field where the campus stands. The project was finished on time and on budget in June 2011. SpawGlass Contractors submitted the nomination to ENR.

The University Center – a two-story, 38,000-square-foot, design-build project that cost \$7.2 million – opened in August for classes offered by the South Texas Educational Partnership, the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation offices, and TSTC Corporate & Community Education offices. "The building awards are great recognition, but the amazing story is what is happening inside the building," Dr. Maldonado added. Twenty-three bachelor's degrees, 23 master's degrees and one doctoral degree are available through STEP, which includes TSTC, the University of Houston, the University of Texas-Pan American, University of Texas at Brownsville, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Wayland Baptist University, LeTourneau University, Our Lady of the Lake University and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Admission and financial aid applications are available from the separate universities.

The ENR published the results of its Texas and Louisiana Best Projects in the December 12 edition. The online story is available at:

http://texas.construction.com/texas_construction_projects/2011/1212-texas-state-technical-college-university-center-harlingen-texas-.aspx.

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Media Contacts:

Angie González | 956-364-4500 (o) | 956-434-6250 (c) | angie.gonzalez@harlingen.tstc.edu

Dave Ralph | 956-364-4113 | dave.ralph@harlingen.tstc.edu