

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Eliana Maruri
512-583-2541
emaruri@swkey.org



EAST AUSTIN COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY SELECTED FOR NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM

Students selected to travel to conference and help initiate curriculum models

Austin, TX (June 26, 2009)— The National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, awarded The East Austin College Prep Academy (EACPA) a \$20,000 Service Learning Grant to participate in an educational pilot program starting this summer. The program will run for two years and will contribute to curriculum development to be used as a nationwide model.

The EACPA was one of three schools selected from across the nation for this distinguished award. The EACPA, a newly awarded charter school, is set to open its doors to 90 sixth graders in August and is quickly taking charge to implement innovative teaching methods such as the ones that will be derived from the NCLR pilot program.

The grant is intended to provide and facilitate a service learning model to NCLR network schools serving middle school students. Through this initiative, NCLR seeks to raise student awareness of community work, increase creativity and hands-on learning, and support teacher development in student learning standards.

“We are truly excited to have been selected for this contemporary program. This grant will provide us the opportunity to learn true actual service learning approaches that can be incorporated into our curriculum,” says Dr. Magali López, EACPA Principal. “Best of all, our students are going to be able to apply what they learn to their communities.”



PRESS RELEASE

Three students will travel to Oakland, California for training along with a teacher and Dr. López from June 28 through July 1. Students will participate in team building exercises and will help inaugurate the project. Activities include a visit to the Jack London Aquatic Center and boating in the East Bay.

Upon completion of training, students will develop projects based on the service learning models and will present their completed projects next summer in Chicago, Illinois at the National Council of La Raza Conference. After completion of the program, the EACPA intends to strategically apply and incorporate the models into its curriculum to maximize the expected educational achievement benefits.

About Southwest Key Programs:

Southwest Key Programs is a national nonprofit organization headquartered in Austin, Texas. It has a creative and diverse staff of over 1,000 employees with a mission to open doors to opportunity for youth to achieve their dreams through culturally competent education, community development, and youth and family services. In 2008, Southwest Key was formally accredited by the Council on Accreditation, one of the world's leading human service accrediting agencies. Southwest Key's East Austin Community Development Center now serves as a launching pad for increasing the educational attainment and employability of East Austin residents, leading to higher paid employees, increased tax revenues and increased civic and economic engagement of residents. For more information, visit www.swkey.org.

###



From left to right: Dr. Magali López (EACPA Principal), Valerie Minerva Flores, Christian De Jesus Gomez, Donjae Kenyon Harden, Jason Brafford (Social Studies Teacher). The group will travel to Oakland, California to participate in program training.

