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GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO LSU BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER Congressman Charles Boustany Joins State Director Clyde Holloway to Present USDA Rural Development Grant Funds for Mobile Business Classroom

OPELOUSAS, October 28, 2008 – Congressman Charles Boustany joined State Director Clyde Holloway to present \$147,924 in USDA Rural Development grant funds to Louisiana State University’s Business and Technology Center today in Opelousas. The grant funds will be used by LSU to provide technical assistance and training services to Louisiana’s small and emerging private business enterprises in rural parishes. Charles F. “Charlie” D’Agostino, Executive Director for the Business and Technology Center, accepted the grant funds for LSU.

“The mobile business classroom provides quality, university-level training in a hometown setting,” said Holloway. “Today, the classroom is in Opelousas, in coming weeks it will be in Rayne, then it will travel to other communities. Businesses in rural areas throughout Louisiana will benefit from the training offered by this mobile classroom.”

The grant funds were awarded through USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program. The RBEG program provides funding to schools, businesses, and local organizations to help them conduct economic development activities, finance business expansions, and make infrastructure improvements.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located in Alexandria, and Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs may be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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