

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$294,260 RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN

Temple, Texas, October 2, 2003 – Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announces a grant to the University of Texas-Pan American from the agency's Rural Cooperative Development Grant program.

“The Bush Administration is committed to enhancing job opportunities in America's rural economies,” said Daniel. “This grant will promote rural economic development and facilitate the creation and retention of jobs in rural South Texas through the development of rural cooperatives, value-added processing, and rural business.”

The University of Texas-Pan American received a grant totaling \$294,260. The grant will be used for promoting the development of minority-owned cooperatives, enhancing the utilization of international marketing by cooperatives, promoting value-added processing by cooperatives, providing business technical assistance to co-ops and co-op members, and enhancing the utilization of electronic commerce by cooperatives & members.

The Cooperative Development Grant program is administered through USDA Rural Development. The grants were awarded on a competitive basis and are intended to foster rural cooperative development through projects that provide rural residents with education and technical assistance in areas of cooperative startup, marketing and managing, and other self-help tools.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

