



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$198,000 GRANT FOR UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, PAN AMERICAN**

**EDINBURG, TEXAS, September 18, 2006**-- Texas USDA Rural Development State Director, Bryan Daniel, today announced University of Texas, Pan American received a \$198,000 Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) to improve the economic condition of rural communities along the Texas/Mexico Border Region by providing assistance to small, Hispanic organizations through their cooperative businesses. The grant will be used to fund the Texas Rural Cooperative Center throughout the 2007 calendar year.

“One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide funding to rural communities in an effort to spur economic development,” said Daniel.

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program is administered through USDA Rural Development Business Programs. The grants are awarded to facilitate the creation or retention of jobs in rural areas through the development of new rural cooperatives, value-added processing and other rural businesses.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Edinburg Local Office at (956) 383-4928, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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