The latest from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Tutoring and Learning Center Wins National Award for Excellence

By Steve Paschal

The Tutoring and Learning Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been named the winner of the 2004 Tutoring Excellence Award by the National Tutoring Association. Gerry Moreno, director of the University's Tutoring and Learning Center, accepted the award at the Association's national convention in Nashville, Tenn. recently.

The National Tutoring Association recognizes programs that have demonstrated effectiveness through training components, a unique instructional delivery system, outcomes, evaluations, assessments and success as well as quality of service to students, and retention and graduation rates of students.

"This is another example of the many fine programs we have here," said Manuel Lujan, dean of enrollment management at the University. "A&M University-Corpus Christi is fortunate to have gifted people to put together teams to make things happen, and Gerry has done that with the support of the University."

Since 1994, the A&M-Corpus Christi Tutoring and Learning Center has provided academic support services to help students reach their educational goals and succeed in the university environment. Adrienne Armstrong, a junior chemistry major from Dallas, attributes much of her academic success to the Learning Center.

"I've been using it since I was a freshman and needed help with Algebra," said Armstrong. "I'm using it for science and technology now and it's helped me improve my grades a lot. When you don't understand something in class and you're lost, they help you break it down so that you understand... I don't know what I'd do without them."

Cynthia Boyd, who has been using the Learning Center since 2000, also credits the tutors with helping her get through some of her toughest classes. The junior from Corpus Christi is majoring in chemistry with minors in geology and math.

You can directly correlate my grades with the amount of time I spend in the Learning Center," she said. "If it hadn't been for the math tutors I wouldn't have gotten A's in algebra, trigonometry or pre-calculus. In the four years I've been here, the Learning Center has gone from a few cubicles to having separate rooms for each department and Mr. Moreno has had a lot to do with that."