Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s ‘Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps’ is Nationally Recognized by Excelencia in Education

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Title V and Trio “Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps” program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been recognized by the national non-profit organization Excelencia in Education.

Each year, Excelencia in Education recognizes Hispanic Serving Institutions that have improved the services for Hispanic college students, especially first-generation students from low-income families. Earlier this month, the University’s “Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps” program received an honorable mention at the Excelencia in Education Symposium held in Los Angeles. The program was one of the top 10 programs among 90 considered for this distinction.

“I am very proud of our staff,” said Dr. Veronica Guerra, Title V and Trio director. “They do a tremendous job and make an invaluable contribution, especially to enrollment management at the University. Without these programs, our yearly enrollment for low-income minority students, especially Hispanics, would suffer.”

The “Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps” program consists of one five-year Cooperative Title V grant, one TRIO Upward Bound grant, one TRIO Expanded Initiative Upward Bound grant, and one TRIO Student Support Services grant. Together, the four grants bring in approximately 1.2 million dollars each year in federal assistance to low income, first-generation Hispanics and other minorities.

“The ‘Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps’ program creates a seamless educational pipeline from high school to college,” said Sarita Brown, president of Excelencia in Education. “The Texas A&M-Corpus Christi program is the only one in the nation where both the Title V and Trio grants work together to maximize services so that low-income, first-generation Hispanic and other minority students can complete both a secondary and postsecondary level education.”