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Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is devoted to discovering, communicating, and applying knowledge in a complex and changing world. The university identifies, attracts, and graduates students of high potential, especially those from groups who have been historically under-represented in Texas higher education. Through a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi prepares students for lifelong learning and for responsible participation in the global community.

Office of Community Outreach
Mission Statement

The Office of Community Outreach is dedicated to achieving the Imperatives of Momentum 2015 by building successful community/University partnerships, engaging faculty and students, and providing programs to meet community needs.

Community Outreach serves as the public service arm of the University. Established in 1993, Outreach insures that resources of the University, including facilities, knowledge and expertise, and volunteer hours, are available to meet community needs. All age levels are served through Outreach, and one does not need to be a University student to receive Outreach services. Through creative problem-solving, Outreach staff works with community partners and University faculty, students, and staff to assist the Coastal Bend community with a variety of services including events & conferences, workforce & economic development, continuing education, youth programs, and environmental outreach. Outreach fully supports the University's commitment to the community established in the Momentum 2015 Strategic Plan.

Office of Community Outreach
Scholarship Program

Outreach is also dedicated to supporting our students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. In addition to providing employment opportunities and sponsoring student organizations, Outreach provides an annual contribution to the University’s scholarship fund. The Office of Community Outreach Scholarship contribution for 2009 is $110,000, which includes $50,000 in matching funds for scholarships through the Faculty and Staff Campaign and $10,000 to each of the five colleges and the Honors Program.

Community Outreach acknowledges Dr. Diana Cardenas' Technical and Professional Writing students Denise Dominquez, Samantha Howard, and Leah Lopez for producing the original Outreach Annual Report in 2007.
Community Outreach is charged with administering continuing education and professional development programs at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Director of Workforce Development partners with faculty to ensure compliance with professional continuing education standards and University policies, and issues continuing education units (CEUs) and certificates.

Community Outreach partners with faculty to develop and deliver customized courses in response to community training requests. Current projects underway include hands-on, intermediate level computer software workshops and a series of supervisor development seminars.

Director of Workforce Development, Carole Peterson, developed and conducted a teambuilding workshop for the executive staff of the South Texas Light House for the Blind (STLB) based on Gallup’s StrengthsFinder 2.0. Participants gained a better understanding of their individual strengths and how each team member contributed to the effectiveness of STLB’s senior management. South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind is a nonprofit corporation that works to provide employment and education opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Community Outreach partners with the Texas Society of Certified Professional Accountants (TSCPA) to deliver continuing education seminars for CPAs seeking to maintain their professional credentials. TSCPA is a nonprofit, voluntary, professional organization committed to serving the public interest with programs that advance the highest standards of ethics and practice within the CPA profession.

Community Outreach now offers a wide range of online, career development courses designed to prepare learners for high-demand occupations in healthcare, business, and computer technology. These non-credit certificate programs are six-month, blended learning courses that include both online and textbook instruction.
Online Personal Enrichment
  • Carole Peterson

Hundreds of stimulating online courses are available through Community Outreach’s E-Learning Center. Courses are designed to enrich learners’ intellectual, cultural, and personal lives. Topics range from using the internet and popular software to foreign language and parenting skills.

Pre-Advanced/Advanced Placement Teacher’s Summer Institute
  • Crystal Seehorn

Endorsed by the College Board, this five-day continuing education program is designed for teachers in the Coastal Bend area and across the state to acquire new teaching techniques in the classroom to prepare middle and high-school level Advanced Placement students for higher education.

Texas Educator Certification Exams
  • Carole Peterson
  • Client: Educational Testing Services, Texas Education Agency

Community Outreach partners with Educational Testing Services (ETS) to administer Texas Educator certification examinations for the Texas Education Agency. The exams are designed to ensure that future teachers have the content and professional knowledge necessary for an entry-level position in Texas public schools.

Community Engagement
  Organization & Economic Development

Strategic Planning Facilitation
  • Carole Peterson
  • Client: Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce

Director of Workforce Development, Carole Peterson, facilitated a strategic planning session for the Board of Directors of the Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce. This was the fourth in a series of annual planning meetings facilitated by Peterson for the chamber. The Aransas Pass Chamber of Commerce is working to enhance business, tourism, recreation, and economic development in its community.

City of Corpus Christi Small Business Internship Program
  • Jim Needham
  • Client: Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation

Jim Needham worked with Career Services at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and with partners Del Mar College and Workforce Solutions to develop an internship program for small businesses in Corpus Christi. The Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation provides funding to match employers’ wages for upper level student interns. Employers receive top quality assistance for their businesses, students receive relevant experience at a respectable wage, and the City receives the benefit of new jobs created by growing small businesses.
Public Outreach and Education

- Gretchen Arnold
- Sponsors: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, City of Corpus Christi, Port Industries of Corpus Christi

The public education and outreach program of the Pollution Prevention Partnership provides information to the community about air quality and recommends practices to keep Corpus Christi air within national air quality standards. Information is presented to the community at Clean Air Fairs where visitors can test drive clean vehicles and participate in many other “clean air” activities. Outreach activities also include teacher workshops that provide educational materials for K-12 “clean air” lessons and air quality presentations for the community and media.

AutoCheck

- Ed Eiland
- Sponsor: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

AutoCheck is a program designed to reduce harmful emissions from vehicles by providing free screening events throughout the area. Vehicles that are found to be polluting are given a free repair voucher. Gas caps are checked for leaks and tire pressures checked and adjusted. This year Auto-Check held 19 events, screened 1100 vehicles, issued 215 repair and 180 gas cap vouchers, resulting in emissions reductions of nearly 30 tons per year.

Transportation Planning and Programming

- Gretchen Arnold
- Sponsors: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Community Partners: City of Corpus Christi, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Texas Department of Transportation

Transportation planning and programming includes providing resource tools and programs that may reduce emissions associated with transportation. Programs include the development of a bicycle/pedestrian transportation plan, clean commute public transportation plans, and the development of a web-based transportation corridor planning site.
Clean School Bus Program

- Gretchen Arnold
- Sponsor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Community Partners: The Independent School Districts of: Corpus Christi, Flour Bluff, West Oso, Tuloso-Midway, Calallen, Gregory-Portland, Mathis, Beeville, Three-Rivers, Sinton, and Taft

The Clean School Bus program involves retrofitting area school buses with pollution prevention equipment. The installation of the equipment reduces emissions from each bus by approximately 20% for particulate matter, 40% for hydrocarbons, and 30% for carbon monoxide. Installation and testing has been completed on 91 busses from eight area school districts.
Youth Programs

Elite Islander Dual Credit Program
- Joe Miller
- Community Partners: Flour Bluff, Calallen, Gregory-Portland, and Corpus Christi Independent School Districts and Annapolis Christian Academy

This program delivers dual credit courses to area high school students on the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus. The inaugural class of Elite Islander students began attending classes in the 2008 fall semester.

CHRISTUS Spohn T.E.C.H. Camp
- Carole Peterson
- Sponsor: CHRISTUS Spohn Health System
- University Partners: College of Nursing and Health Science, College of Science and Technology, and Recreational Sports Department

Community Outreach helped high school students participating in CHRISTUS Spohn’s T.E.C.H. Camp explore Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s healthcare and technology programs. T.E.C.H. stands for Teens Exploring Careers in Healthcare. The program was open to children of CHRISTUS Spohn employees. During their visit to A&M-Corpus Christi, students learned about helping others stay healthy in the College of Nursing’s high-tech patient simulation laboratory and how to keep themselves healthy during a tour of the new Dugan Wellness Center.

5th Annual Heart Gallery of South Texas
- Carole Peterson
- Client: Texas Department of Family and Protective Services – Child Protective Services
- University Partners: Barbra Riley (Art Department), Tom Murphy and Susan Garza (English Department) in the College of Liberal Arts, Roberto Garcia (Garcia Arts & Education Center) in the College of Education
- Students: Marsha Perez (English/Sociology), Yvanna Navarro and Kaitlin Steinberg (Photography)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi photography and technical writing students worked together to create a traveling photo exhibit of local foster children hoping to find permanent, loving families. The Heart Gallery is an annual community engagement project led by the College of Liberal Arts to raise awareness of Child Protective Service’s foster adoption program. The exhibit features children who are harder to place due to their age, usually 9 years and above, or because they are in a sibling group. More than 30 of the children included in the Heart Gallery have been placed in adoptive homes since the project began in 2005.
Summer Camps
- Joe Miller
- University Partners: Faculty and staff from a variety of academic colleges

Community Outreach provided assistance and oversight for 30 University-sponsored summer youth camps on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Support services included risk management, scheduling, facilities, accommodations, and program design. Camps included a wide variety of activities including music, theater, sports, outdoor adventure, academics, career development, and more.

Summer Nutrition Program
- Joe Miller
- Sponsor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- University Partner: Kinesiology Department

Community Outreach operated this program which supplied free meals to 925 underprivileged summer campers while they attended camp on the Corpus Christi campus.

Gulf Coast Environmental Education Program
- Jim Needham, Joe Miller
- Sponsor: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Community Partners: Boys & Girls Club, Garcia Center for the Arts, Homeschoolers of South Texas, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Audrey’s Day at the Beach
- University Partners: Jay Tarkington (Center for Coastal Studies)

This summer program provides young people with the opportunity to learn to kayak in order to explore the coastal environment. This series of one-week camps included activities such as kayak training, environmental education, and wetland exploration. Visits and tours included educational facilities such as the Coastal Conservation Association/Texas Parks & Wildlife Redfish Hatchery, the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Talley Island Education Center, Texas State Aquarium and others. The program was sponsored by a Texas Parks and Wildlife Community Outdoor Outreach Program Grant.

MathCounts 2009
- Jim Needham, Joe Miller, Crystal Seehorn
- Sponsors: Citgo Refining, Flint Hills Resources, Valero Refining, HDR Shiner Moseley, and Texas Society of Professional Engineers

MathCounts is a middle school math program developed by the National Association of Professional Engineers. Community Outreach sponsored the annual MathCounts Regional Competition where teams from 12 schools across the region competed for a chance to advance to the State Competition. Over 100 middle school students participated in the competition.
Lego Battlebot Camp
• Joe Miller, Jim Needham

Lego Battlebot Camp was a one-week summer camp for youth ages 8-12 that involved activities using advanced Lego pieces and principles of complex machines, gearing, and mechanical advantage. Students designed and built robots and competed in games where they attempted to disable or overcome their opponents.

Summer Odyssey Partners in Career Exploration
• Joe Miller
• Client: Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend, Hammons Educational Leadership Project.
• University Partners: Stacey Lyle (Conrad Blucher Institute), Asad Salem (College of Science and Technology), Jack Gron (Department of Fine Arts), Michael Scherger (Department of Computing Sciences), Wyman Crawley (University Physical Plant), John Gonzalez (College of Science and Technology)

Summer Odyssey was a four-week experience that utilized a series of faculty-led educational activities as a means to demonstrate meaningful career options to at-risk or already disengaged high school students. Students learned through engaging, hands-on activities such as virtual programming, digital mapping, metallurgy, electrical engineering, structural engineering, and more.
Events & Conference Services

35th Annual Texas State A Cappella Concert
- Crystal Seehorn
- Community Client: Alumni of Southwestern Christian College-Southwest Chapter

A two-day concert featuring performances by a cappella choirs around the state of Texas. The event included more than 300 performers and spectators at the Performing Arts Center.

2008 Texas Plant Conservation Conference
- Crystal Seehorn
- University Client: College of Science & Technology, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

AAPC Examinations
- Crystal Seehorn
- Community Client: American Academy of Professional Coders

Buccaneer Classic Music Festival
- Crystal Seehorn
- Community Client: American Classic Music Festivals

This annual music festival allows middle and high school students in band, orchestra, and choir an opportunity to participate in a competition with students across Texas on the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi campus.

Career and Technical Education Leadership Academy
- Crystal Seehorn
- University Client: College of Education, Texas Education Agency

Career and Technical Education Recruitment and Retention Conference
- Crystal Seehorn
- University Clients: College of Education, Texas Education Agency

College & Career Readiness Initiative Conference
- Crystal Seehorn
- University Client: College of Education, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Student Ambassador Informational Meeting
- Crystal Seehorn
- Community Client: People to People

A free informational meeting for youth in grades 5-12 about opportunities to participate in People to People International’s global education program. The People to People movement was launched in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.
The People’s Law School

- **Crystal Seehorn**
- **University Clients: College of Business, Phi Alpha Delta, University of Houston**

A free, one-day program designed to make the law “user-friendly” to the general public. Classes include wills, family and consumer law, landlord/tenant law, and credit and debt collection.

**Sizzling Summer Basketball Classic**

- **Crystal Seehorn**
- **Community Client: Mid-America Youth Basketball**

A three-day basketball tournament featuring youth from around the Coastal Bend. The tournament brought more than 2,000 participants and their families to the Island University.

**STARRS Junior Triathlon Training**

- **Crystal Seehorn**
- **Community Client: South Texas Area Runners Riders and Swimmers**

A six-week triathlon preparation program for youth designed to train for the STARRS Annual Triathlon.

**Surveying II: The Advanced Short Course**

- **Crystal Seehorn**
- **University Client: College of Science & Technology, Geographic Information Science**

This summer program was hosted by the Department of Geographic Information Science and provided surveyors from across the state with a five-day continuing professional education opportunity. Instructors for the course included professionals from industry, technical surveying software and equipment experts, an expert witness for legal surveying cases, and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi faculty.
2009 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Environmental Excellence Finalist Award
Civic Nonprofit Category
Environmental Outreach & Pollution Prevention

From the TCEQ Website:

The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA) celebrate the bold efforts of citizens, communities, businesses, and organizations to preserve and protect the Texas environment.

The mission of the TEEA program is to honor the state’s most outstanding waste reduction and pollution prevention projects. These award-winning programs reflect the goals of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) itself: to protect our state’s human and natural resources and ensure clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.
Community Outreach Staff

Jim Needham

Dr. Jim Needham is Dean of Community Outreach. He operates as a connection between the University and the Coastal Bend community. Before coming to Corpus Christi, Jim acquired his degrees at Texas A&M University including a Doctorate of Philosophy in Architecture. Jim has been awarded multiple grants to aid in his work with the community. He is a Nueces County Parks Commissioner and serves on the City of Corpus Christi Watershore & Beach Advisory Committee. He serves with several community organizations and chairs the State Employee Charitable Campaign for the Coastal Bend Region.

Gretchen Arnold

Gretchen Arnold is the Director of the Pollution Prevention Partnership. She develops and delivers environmental programs provided through the Pollution Prevention Partnership and obtains all funding required for delivering the programs. The Pollution Prevention Partnership was recently announced as a Blue Sky award recipient by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Her education includes a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She has several years experience with environmental and regulatory programs developed in Corpus Christi.

Ed Eiland

Ed Eiland is the Program Coordinator for the Pollution Prevention Partnership AutoCheck program. AutoCheck serves Nueces and San Patricio counties and endeavors to reduce vehicle emissions by identifying and repairing vehicles with high emissions. Ed graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology (Control Systems) from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Ed is retired from the U.S. Navy where he served on numerous FBM Submarines as a Missile Technician.

Deanne (Dee Dee) Hubenak

Dee Dee joined Community Outreach in March of 2008. She is responsible for the office accounts and purchases, and assists and supports the Dean and Directors with their grants, events, programs, conferences, and camps. Dee Dee has worked in a variety of industries as an internal auditor and accountant. Prior to her appointment with Community Outreach, she worked at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Bookstore for almost six years as a Retail Accountant. Dee Dee graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration - Accounting degree from Texas A&I University in Kingsville. She is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.
Joe Miller

Joe Miller is the Director of Education & Youth Issues. He is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of initiatives designed to improve the lives of young people in the Corpus Christi community. Joe designs and implements programs for at-risk youth, coordinates all of the summer camps at the University, and oversees the University Dual Credit Program. Joe earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, and is currently a student in the Master of Public Administration program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Carole Peterson

Carole Peterson is Director of Workforce and Economic Development. She plans, manages, and delivers programs to enhance the Coastal Bend’s workforce and economy. She collaborates with A&M-Corpus Christi faculty to develop training programs, conduct economic research, and provide management consulting services. She has 20 years of business and economic development experience. Carole graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Arts degree in English and Spanish from Texas Lutheran University and earned her Master of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Crystal Seehorn

Crystal Seehorn is the Events and Conferences Manager. She plans, manages, and executes mission-advancing ancillary and institutional events utilizing University and community resources and services. The services she provides help programs to be created in the Coastal Bend to benefit youth and professionals in the community. The office of Events and Conferences offers a one-stop shop for event planning, facility reservations, conference registration, and a broad array of customized event services. Crystal connects her clients to the resources needed for successful events on campus and in the community. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Bill Hennings

Bill Hennings is Project Manager for the Pollution Prevention Partnership. His projects have involved improving air quality and water quality in the Coastal Bend Region. He earned Bachelor’s and Master's degrees in Engineering from the University of Louisville, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Corpus Christi State University. He served as Chairman of the Corpus Christi Air Quality Committee and as City Manager of Corpus Christi. His current activities include the Coastal Bend Council of Governments Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi Sustainable Clean Water Committee.
Community Outreach Student Workers

Jason Aguilar  
Senior in Mechanical Engineering Technology  
Corpus Christi

Brenda Briones  
Sophomore in Biomedical Science  
San Antonio

Claire Burns  
Junior in Communication  
San Antonio

Brandon Childs  
Senior in Mechanical Engineering Technology  
Columbus

Crystal Hernandez  
Senior in Business Administration  
Robstown

Jordan Joy  
Sophomore in Nursing  
San Antonio

Cory Lundschen  
Sophomore in Mechanical Engineering Technology  
San Antonio

Rebecca Simpson  
Junior in Nursing  
San Antonio

Joanna Soriano  
Sophomore in Nursing  
San Antonio

Shelby Stuart  
Senior in Environmental Science  
Inez

Barbara Tharas  
Junior in Environmental Science  
Ingleside
Memberships

American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) – Corpus Christi Chapter
Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors
Board of Certified Safety Professionals
Boy Scouts of America
City of Corpus Christi Unified Development Code Advisory Committee
City of Corpus Christi Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee
Coastal Bend Asthma Coalition
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Water & Sediment Quality Advisory Committee
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program Human Uses Advisory Committee
Coastal Bend Bays Foundation
Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living
Coastal Bend Nature Tourism Initiative Advisory Committee
Coastal Bend Ozone Task Force/Air Quality Committee
Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Infrastructure Committee
Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee
Corpus Christi Community Advisory Council
Corpus Christi Human Resources Management Association
Corpus Christi Oil and Gas Advisory Committee
Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation Business Expansion and Retention Response Team
Drive Clean Across Texas Advisory Committee
Education Workforce Issues Managers Group
Environmental Protection Agency Blue Skyways Coalition
Flint Hill Resources Community Action Council
Go-Center Advisory Board
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Long Term Health Group
Moody T-STEM Academy Advisory Board
Nueces County Community Action Planning Team
Nueces County Parks Board
Regional Transportation Authority Alternative Fuel Advisory Committee
Selective Service System Board
State Employee Charitable Campaign
State of Texas Bicycle Advisory Committee
Surfrider Foundation-Coastal Bend Chapter
Texas Association of Partners in Education
Texas Association of Pupil Transporters
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Clean Air Public Round Table
Texas Coastal Bend Regional Tourism Council
Texas State Museum of Asian Cultures Board of Directors
World Affairs Council of the Coastal Bend
Youth Continuum of Care Coalition