

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Academic Advising Transition Center Recognized for Serving Transfer Students in Texas **Center receives STEP Award for Best Practices in Transfer Enrollment Management**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Successful Transfer Enhancement Program (STEP) 2009 Award competition today (Friday, May 22) announced that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Academic Advising Transition Center (AATC) has received the Silver Award in the Best Practices in Transfer Enrollment Management category.

The announcement was made during the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Texas Transfer Success Conference, held in collaboration with the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students (NISTS) and the University of North Texas Center for Higher Education. The STEP Award Competition recognizes outstanding work in serving transfer students within the State of Texas. As part of the honor, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s AATC was also named one of the Seven Examples of Excellence.

“This award is an honor for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and the Academic Advising Transition Center team,” said Dr. Patricia Hill, Academic Advising Transition Center director. “Being recognized among the top examples of excellence in Texas confirms our commitment to serving our diverse student population.”

Sixty-seven entries were received from colleges and universities across Texas. Winners in six categories and sub-categories were judged by a NISTS panel of experts on the effective use of resources, creative or innovative approaches to problem-solving and results based on goals and objectives.

“The STEP Award is one of many examples that reflect Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s commitment in providing our students with a top-notch education,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “Our Academic Advising Transition Center

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has become a leader in providing resources and guidance to transfer students working toward their academic goals.”

The Academic Advising Transition Center opened in January 2005 to facilitate the student’s transition from their prior life role to that of a successful undergraduate at the University. The AATC helps students develop realistic expectations of University life, connect with University faculty, staff, and peers, and become engaged within the campus community.

By collaborating with other University areas and the community, the AATC helps build supportive programs for students resulting in greater retention and graduation. Collaboration with the local community college resulted in 84 transfer guides which are specific to individual degree programs will soon be available on-line. In addition, the AATC supports the University's mission as a Hispanic-serving institution to identify, attract, and graduate students of high potential, especially those who have been historically under-represented in Texas higher education.

Located in the Student Service Center, the AATC operates on a walk-in-basis and staff visits with more than 1,500 students annually.

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