Sid W. Richardson Foundation Awards $95,000 Grant to Fund Texas A&M-Corpus Christi’s Teacher Recruitment Initiative

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Sid W. Richardson Foundation has awarded a $95,000 grant to launch Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s College of Education’s Teacher Recruitment Initiative for high-need areas in mathematics, science, bilingual education or special education.

The Sid Richardson Scholars: Teacher Recruitment Initiative for High Needs Areas Initiative seeks to inform, recruit and support high school and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and community college students who desire to achieve active engagement in and commitment to one of the professional high-need areas in mathematics, science, bilingual education or special education. The two-year pilot program developed by Dr. Art Hernandez, dean of the College of Education, will be implemented by Dr. Denise Hill and O.B. Garcia.

“We anticipate this program will boost the recruitment of students from the Coastal Bend who have the interest and ambition to become professional educators in these essential areas,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “We thank the Sid Richardson Foundation for helping us provide academic and financial support to the best and brightest students.”

Program goals are to:

- Develop informational and promotional materials for distribution and posting at the targeted school sites.
- Inform high school and community college counselors and advisors about the availability and requirements of the relevant pre-professional programs and engage them in efforts to inform and encourage promising students to explore careers as professional educators.
- Recruit students at the community colleges who have a demonstrated interest in and have

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declared a major in science or mathematics and provide scholarship.

- Recruit college students from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi or the community colleges with an interest in and willingness to pursue certification in bilingual or special education.
- Recruit high school juniors and seniors with a demonstrated aptitude in science, mathematics or in the top 25 percent of their class and support individual pursuit of pre-matriculate and pre-professional requirements.
- Provide academic, professional and financial support of students designated as program participants.

“As we continue our programs to improve the performance of our public schools, it is essential that we attract many able young people to the teaching profession,” said Val Wilkie, executive vice-president of the Sid W. Richardson Foundation. “We are particularly pleased to support the efforts of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to develop an effective teacher recruitment policy.”

The Sid W. Richardson Foundation, located in Fort Worth, Texas, was established in 1947 to provide grants to nonprofit organizations in Texas to help them fulfill missions primarily in education, healthcare, human services and the arts.

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