

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Students Providing Voluntary Income Tax Assistance to Low Income Families

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas- Accounting students at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi are assisting low income families in the Coastal Bend prepare their 2009 tax returns throughout the tax season as part of the Internal Revenue Service's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

According to Dr. Valrie Chambers, associate professor of accounting, students from the University's College of Business Tax I class can replace one test grade by passing an on-line certification course and completing 20 hours of community service preparing tax returns under the supervision of VITA supervisors in conjunction with this program. The program is geared toward helping seniors and low-income taxpayers with relatively simple returns and taxpayers for whom English is a second language.

"This is an opportunity for students to gain experience beyond the classroom while assisting with the much-needed public service of helping the public comply with a complex tax code," said Chambers.

Most families who earn less than \$49,000, military families (in conjunction with the Armed Forces Tax council), and taxpayers 60 years of age and older (generally in conjunction with AARP sites) are eligible to have their tax returns prepared for free. To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

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Anyone needing assistance should bring:

- Photo identification
- Social Security cards for both spouses and dependents
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns (if available)
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total paid for day care and the day care providers identifying number

Locations offering VITA services through Thursday, April 15:

- Del Mar College, Venters Business Building- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-6:30 p.m.
- Goodwill Store, Flour Bluff- Thursdays and Fridays from 6-8 pm., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 pm.
- Boys and Girls Club on Greenwood- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Goodwill Store, S. Port Avenue- Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-6:30 pm.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Additional information is available at <http://www.uwcb.org/>

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