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Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant will Allow Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to Build on First-Year Islanders Initiatives
‘Blended Learning Toolkit’ combines Web-based learning and classroom instruction

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been selected as one of 20 collaborating institutions to receive $10,000 in funds from the Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) grant awarded to the American Association and State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the University of Central Florida (UCF).

The $250,000 NGLC grant funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation will support the AASCU/UCF proposal, “Expanding Blended Learning Through Tools and Campus Programs,” an initiative designed to increase blended learning through the development of a “Blended Learning Toolkit.” The NGLC project targets first-year students by creating intermediate algebra and composition classes that combine Web-based learning with traditional classroom instruction.

In fall 2011 and spring 2012, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi will utilize the “Blended Learning Toolkit” in several sections of the First-Year Islanders (FYI) program. The classes will meet face-to-face and online; and use technology to provide greater scheduling flexibility, maximize classrooms and encourage student engagement.

Based on best practices that have been successfully implemented by the University of Central Florida, the toolkit includes strategies for blended course design and delivery; open educational resource blended course models in composition and algebra; assessment and data collection protocols; and “train the trainer” materials and workshops.

-A&M-Corpus Christi-