FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: December 9, 2011
CONTACT: Dr. Gilda Ramirez, 361.825.6062; Cassandra Hinojosa, 361.825.2337

*****INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES*****

• Dr. Gilda Ramirez, College of Education. (Call Cassandra Hinojosa to arrange).
• Dr. Arthur Hernandez, College of Education dean who pursued funding. (Call Cassandra Hinojosa to arrange).
• Dr. Denise Hill, oversees teacher education for College of Education. (Call Cassandra Hinojosa to arrange).
• Valerie Arechiga, a teacher at Travis Elementary School interested in getting certified in Math 4-8. Call Valerie directly to arrange interview: 361.695.0793 (cell).

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to Offer Teachers Free Certification in High-Need Math and Science Areas

Math and Science Teacher Certification offered through College of Education

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Currently-certified teachers will be able to add certification in math or science at no financial cost to them through the Math and Science Teacher Certification Preparation Workshops offered by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The application process is now underway, and workshops will take place February-May 2012.

“These workshops will help meet immediate demands for teachers in high need math and science areas in our region,” said Dr. Gilda Ramirez, director of College of Education Development and Research Operations. “The interest we’ve had in these workshops so far has been astounding.”

At least 40 participants will be selected for the program offered through the College of Education and funded by the Sid Richardson Foundation. Those teachers who already hold generalist teaching certifications and want to become Content Certified in Math 4-8, Math 8-12, Science 4-8, Life Science 8-12 or Physical Science 8-12, are eligible to apply. According to the Texas Education Agency, mathematics and science teachers are in significant demand.

Ramirez says because elementary-level generalists are competing in a highly competitive job market, they have the most difficult time obtaining teaching positions. The benefits of

-MORE-
choosing a high-needs field include increased job availability, more ability to choose where you work, greater availability of scholarships, and possible signing bonuses offered by school districts. In addition, the cost of examinations and reapplication fees are prohibitive to many teachers who are new to the profession or those who are working as substitutes until school districts withdraw hiring freezes for teaching positions.

Candidates accepted into the program will receive their certification upon successful completion of exam(s). Those selected will receive exam study materials, 24-30 hours of preparation workshops, the TExES exam fee of $120, reapplication certification fee of $77, University parking during workshops and $250 when candidates pass the exam.

Applications will be open until Friday, Jan. 20, at http://highneeds.tamucc.edu/. For more information, visit the registration site or call 361.825.6062.

-A&M-Corpus Christi-