

# **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**

*The Island University*

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 361.825.2420 FAX 361.825.2620

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: June 2, 2011**

**CONTACT: Richard Bell, 361.653.2575; Steve Paschal, 361.825.2336**

## **Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center Presents Innovation Awards**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi presented the second “Innovation Center Awards” at its June 1 advisory board meeting.

The University’s College of Business established the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center in 2009 to stimulate job growth by encouraging entrepreneurial economic development of companies that, once established, are committed to remaining in the Coastal Bend. The annual awards recognize extraordinary effort and contribution in the goals of the Innovation Center by faculty, students and clients.

This year’s “Faculty of the Year” award went to Dr. L.D. Chen, associate dean of Engineering and Computing Sciences and professor of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Throughout the year, the client companies of the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center benefited from Dr. Chen’s expertise in the development of various engineering testing and applications.

The “Student of the Year” award was presented to Clara Light, a Masters of Accountancy student who has worked at the Center for more than a year assisting client companies. Recently, she stepped up as the interim business development specialist while a search was conducted for permanent hire. In that position, she worked with clients in their search for funding and also

**-MORE-**

## **Page 2, Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center Awards**

managed Center and Client grant applications, applying for more than \$3 million in grants promoting the Center and clients. She is scheduled to graduate from the Masters of Accountancy program at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in December 2011.

The “Client of the Year” award was presented to Robert Moore and Recycling Organics Inc (ROI). ROI owns and is currently commercializing an organic compound that revitalizes soil that has been treated with nonorganic treatments and works alongside traditional chemical compounds to regenerate the natural components that rebuild soil and eliminate the residue of chemical treatments.

Awards were presented by Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, dean of the University’s College of Business, and Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame, chairman of the Center Advisory Committee. For more information on the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, go to [www.coastalbendinnovation.com](http://www.coastalbendinnovation.com); or call 361.653.2575.

**-A&M-Corpus Christi-**