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Record Numbers Take Advantage of Internal Revenue Service’s VITA Income Tax Assistance Program for Low-Income Households
College of Business student volunteers receive valuable professional experience

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to assist low income families in the Coastal Bend prepare their tax returns saw a 27 percent increase in the number of people taking advantage of the program over last year.

The Internal Revenue Service Program, which is offered each year through a partnership between the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the United Way of the Coastal Bend, can assist most families earning less than $50,000 a year including military families (in conjunction with the Armed Forces Tax Council). In addition, taxpayers 60 years of age and older (generally in conjunction with AARP sites) are eligible to have their tax returns prepared for free.

This tax season 28 students from the College of Business’ federal income tax classes contributed more than 700 hours of community service assisting with the filing of returns, up from 21 volunteers in 2010. This year a total of 1,876 returns were filed, up from 1,289 last year and 809 the previous year. Refunds returned to the community totaled $2.6 million, a 26 percent increase from last year.

“Each year the VITA program gives our students the opportunity to gain experience beyond the classroom while assisting with the much-needed public service of helping people comply with a complex tax code,” said Dr. Valrie Chambers, professor in the College of Business.