FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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High Resolution Photo: Dr. JoAnn Canales

Dr. JoAnn Canales to Head Project that Encourages Hispanic Scholars to Pursue Careers in Food and Agricultural Sciences
Deadline to submit thesis abstract for national competition is Friday, Sept. 30

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – Dr. JoAnn Canales, associate dean of Graduate Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, will be the principal investigator (PI) on a USDA-funded grant award to recruit and reward young Hispanic scholars to pursue a master’s degree that will prepare them for a career in the food and agricultural sciences.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has partnered with the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) and the USDA- National Institute of Food and Agriculture to sponsor “The CULTIVAR Project: Connecting Underrepresented Latinos to Integrate Values and Academic Resources.” The program is designed to nurture 50 individuals, over the course of two years, from a graduate degree program to a doctoral and/or workplace program with emphasis on preparing the professionals for their career.

The competition for the master’s thesis award program is open to any Hispanic who has completed a thesis that focuses on food and the agricultural sciences between Dec. 1, 2010 and Aug. 30, 2011. Theses are eligible if they are in domains related to the USDA priority areas, including food safety, climate change, sustainable energy, and childhood obesity.

Twenty-five applicants will be invited to attend the 7th annual AAHHE National Conference (March 8-10, 2012) in Costa Mesa, Calif., where they will participate in a Career Preparation Institute. The first place winner will receive an award of $3,000, the second place winner will receive $2,000, and the third place winner will receive $1,000.

The deadline to submit a thesis abstract for the competition is Sept. 30, 2011. For additional details concerning the requirement and regulations, go to www.aahhe.org.

-A&M-Corpus Christi-