

Texas Migrant Council, Inc.
5215 McPherson, 2nd Floor
Laredo, TX 78041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2007

Laredoans join hundreds of Texans Coming to Austin for Pre-k Day

Model Classroom, Press Conference, and Legislative Visits All Components of the Day

(Austin, TX) – Members of the Texas Migrant Council, Inc. including the CEO and TEEM members, will be in Austin this Monday, February 12 as part of **“Pre-k Day at the Texas Capitol”**. “ We will be joining hundreds of stakeholders from across the state and country, including representatives from K-12 education, higher education, business, military, and parents; will join the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) to ensure that legislative leadership understands the benefits of investing in high quality pre-k,” stated Mary Capello, CEO.

We look forward to visiting our Legislators from the different regions where Texas Migrant Council, Inc. has Education Centers to thank them for their support of the children of Texas. Also, the Coalition will listen to Senator Zaffirini discuss Senate Bill 50 which expands pre-kinder programs, increases reimbursement rates paid to child care providers; and improve the recruitment, retention and quality of early childhood education professionals.

The day will showcase a number of activities, including:

- **A Press Conference at 10:00 a.m.** on the south steps of the Capitol where legislative leadership will award post-secondary scholarships to five pre-k children. All five recipients participated in a statewide “Picture the Future” Children’s Art Exhibit in which the pre-k students drew pictures of what they want to be when they grow up.
- **A Model Pre-k Classroom** set up in the ground level Capitol Rotunda (basement level) where legislators have been invited to see firsthand what a high quality environment looks like for young learners, and to take a tour, read, and play with children; and
- **Legislative Visits** from hundreds of advocates from more than 20 Texas communities.

Advocates will be seen wearing “3 ½ to 1” buttons to signify the recent yearlong study conducted by the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A & M University, which found that for every \$1 invested in high quality pre-k, at least \$3.50 is returned to Texas communities.

In addition, legislators will hear from advocates about the success of the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM), a proven school readiness approach that has been piloted for the past four years in thousands of pre-k classrooms across the state.

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Background

“‘Pre-k Day’ is a result of the commitment and dedication of hundreds of early childhood education advocates and stakeholders from across the state and country,” said Kaitlin Guthrow, Executive Director of the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC). “We continue to see strong bipartisan support on this critically important issue that affects all Texans and the future of our state.” she added.

Sponsors for Pre-k Day include: Early Care and Education Consortium, Wireless Generation, Lakeshore Learning Materials, TeachScape, The Children’s Courtyard, BREWER Educational Resources, Inc., Labatt Food Service, Pre-k Now, and IBM.

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The Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) represents more than 230 member organizations dedicated to building a high quality early childhood education and development system for children age birth to five.

Rene Gonzalez
Corporate Communication Manager
Texas Migrant Council, Inc.
O 956-722-5174 x.1129
F 956-725-0907
rene.gonzalez@mail.tmccentral.org