

Texas Migrant Council, Inc.

Dbas New America Corporation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2007

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TMC Hosts National Satellite Teleconference

Laredo/Weslaco – Texas Migrant Council, Inc. (TMC) served as one of Texas’ 45 host sites for a national satellite teleconference sponsored by the early childhood education advocacy group Pre-K Now on **Wednesday, October 17, 2007** at 11:30 AM CST. Every year this teleconference takes place to bring greater credibility and strength to the early childhood education movement in Texas. The teleconference was hosted in Laredo, at the corporate offices and in Weslaco in partnership with the Weslaco Independent School District.

“We at TMC advocate for the needs of early childhood education and understand that investing today in early education creates a positive rate of return for the future of each community”, stated Mary Capello – CEO.

Emmy award-winning journalist Leon Harris hosted this year's conference broadcast titled “Raising the Profile of Pre-k.” As a news anchor for ABC7/WJLA-TV and co-host of Capital Sunday, he came to Washington after 20 years at CNN's Atlanta Headquarters, where he co-anchored CNN Live Today and Prime News, and hosted CNN Presents and American Stories.

The national broadcast hosted by Pre-K Now, brings together advocates from all across the country to learn about the best ways to impact early childhood education. This year, the broadcast featured:

- How to engage city officials and build citywide policies that work for pre-k providers in a variety of settings;
- How to collaborate with business leaders to educate candidates, host a candidate forum on education, and get candidates on the record for pre-k; and
- How to make pre-k a priority on the federal agenda and influence federal lawmakers to invest in pre-k.

The conference featured interviews with **Senator Robert P. Casey** (Pennsylvania), **Senator Hillary R. Clinton** (New York) , **Representative Carolyn B. Maloney** (New York, 14th District), **Representative Mazie K. Hirono** (Hawaii, 2nd District), and **Speaker Christine C. Quinn** of the New York City Council.

“The Pre-k Now Satellite Broadcast is a perfect way to bring together Texans that have a vested interest in educating our youngest children,” said Kara Johnson, Deputy Director of the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition. “As advocates, we know high quality early childhood

education is worth the investment. The satellite broadcast gives us the tools to make sure we all do,” she added.

For more information visit the Pre-K Now website at www.preknow.org or the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition (TECEC) website at www.tecec.org.

WHAT: National Satellite Teleconference hosted by Leon Harris

WHO: Libby Doggett, Executive Director, Pre-K Now
Emmy award-winning journalist Leon Harris, ABC7/WJLA-TV and co-host of Capital Sunday

WHEN: Wednesday, October 17, 2007
National Satellite Broadcast 11:30am-1:30pm CST

WHERE: Live broadcast from Washington, DC
Hosted by:
Texas Migrant Council, Inc.
5215 McPherson

Weslaco ISD Boardroom
319 West Fourth St.