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MEDIA ADVISORY

Sept. 6, 2007

**Retailers Donate \$180,000 to College For All Texans Foundation
to Aid Graduating Seniors**

The Texas Retailers Education Foundation (TREF) has announced an additional gift of \$180,000 to the TEXAS Grant Program through the College for All Texans Foundation. This latest donation follows two previous gifts of \$250,000 each in February and June 2006, bringing the total amount donated by TREF to \$680,000. Nearly 500 students across Texas have benefited from the TREF gifts, which go directly to graduating students from public institutions of higher education. The private investment in public education makes sense, as one in ten Texans is employed in the retail industry.

“Through their generous support of the TEXAS Grant Program, the Texas Retailers Education Foundation has made a lasting difference in the lives of many Texas college students,” said Raymund A. Paredes, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education. “As demand for financial aid continues to exceed the state’s ability to fund, gifts such as this may actually make it possible for qualified students to complete their education.”

WHO: Senator Rodney Ellis, author of TEXAS Grant Program; Texas Retailers Education Foundation; and Commissioner of Higher Education
WHAT: Gift to TEXAS Grant Program
WHEN: 11:00-11:30 a.m., Monday, Sept. 10, 2007
WHERE: Galveston Room; JW Marriott Hotel, 5150 Westheimer Road, Houston

The TEXAS (Toward **EX**cellence, Access and Success) Grant Program, introduced by Senator Ellis, was established by the Texas Legislature in 1999 to ensure well-prepared high school graduates with financial need could attend college. In academic year 2005-06, more than 61,000 students were awarded financial aid through the program, which covers tuition and required fees at any public college or university in Texas. For 2007-08, the state amount is approximately \$5,170 per year for public universities and state college students; \$1,730 per year for public community college students; and \$2,650 per year for public technical college students. Details of the TEXAS Grant Program are available at www.collegefortexans.com.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's mission is to work with the Legislature, Governor, governing boards, higher education institutions and other entities to help Texas meet the goals of the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, and thereby provide the people of Texas the widest access to higher education of the highest quality in the most efficient manner. The Coordinating Board holds quarterly meetings in Austin which are broadcast online. Visit the Coordinating Board online for more information: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/>.

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