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Texas A&M International University

**Texas Center for Border Economic and
Enterprise Development**

QUARTERLY REPORT

FALL 2009

Fall Provides New Opportunities for Research at the Texas Center

As this quarter winds down, the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development has been busy working on various plans to improve visibility, services and the data it provides to Laredo and the surrounding area.

The Center has had representatives attend in the past few weeks some of the major conferences in the area; take trips to the surrounding areas to scout economic development plans; and visit various governmental offices for potential opportunities.

In other words, keep the finger on the pulse of the area. The objectives were to increase visibility in the area, and reassure the community that the Center still offers data and assistance in its service area. The Center is continually looking to improve its core activities to help keep the mandate going while at the same time looking for new opportunities.

There are several opportunities that may arise in the next few months with the City of Laredo. The Texas Center will lend its knowledge and expertise, and of the colleges at Texas A&M international University. This type of co-operatives may bear fruit in future analytical tools, data sets and expanded expertise. With this kind of expansion,

the Center and the University in the future can provide a more holistic approach to researching Laredo and the surrounding area's needs.

Along with focusing outward, the Center has focused inwards to review its current holdings. First, the Center focused within its own data sets reviewing its current offerings. Key things were identified, and plans were drawn to initiate enhancements to the current offerings by the center through its web site. Key word used for these changes, value-added.

Second, the Center did a brief inventory of special projects that were conducted in the past. Of those that were done, the ones with higher merit were revisited to review their viability as possible on-going data projects.

Lastly, major projects were reviewed as to their replication and the viability of reproducing quality and credible data. The major projects were that type that have far reaching ramifications and may be used for direct solicitation of grants and funds for the developmental needs of the municipal and rural areas that the Center supports.

The hope is to better position the Center by strengthening its research roots and giving it a more solid footing to increase its activities in the coming months and years.

—Herbert A. Molina, Director of the TCBEED



Herbert A. Molina
Director of the TCBEED

City of Laredo Police Department and the Texas Center Host Symposium at TAMU

The City of Laredo Police Department will be hosting its First Annual Law Enforcement Executive Symposium in collaboration with the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development. The forum will address a myriad of border security issues as well as explore tactical and intelligence led policing initiatives. The Law Enforcement Executive Symposium provides a platform for regional executives from Federal, State, County and Local jurisdictions to not only network, but discuss the latest criminal trends from a national and international perspective. The primary objective is to open lines of communication and cooperation in sharing Intelligence information and resources to combat local and globalization of criminal organizations.

Speakers will provide a wide array of information from U.S. Homeland Security, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Awareness training, terrorism, human trafficking and the psychological and behavioral dynamics behind the criminal mind. The presenters are experts in their respective fields and have responded to incidents such as the September 11th airplane crash into the Pentagon, the bombing of the Federal Oklahoma City Building, and sui-



cide bombings in the Old City of Jerusalem. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to interact and share tactical and investigative strategies that have proven effective in resolving issues. The event will be held at the University October 27 through the 29th at Texas A&M International University. The symposium is closed to the general public.

If you need any information, you may contact the Police Department at 956-795-3199.

The Mission

To marshal the knowledge and expertise of Texas A&M International University's faculty, students, and staff to provide effective leadership and support Laredo and the surrounding area in their economic development efforts

Texas Center's Future Online Fee-Based Data

During the summer, the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development staff reviewed and evaluated the Center's core data sets, and the type of data requests made of the Center.

Although the brunt of the requests or usage were concentrated on the international crossings at the Texas-Mexico border and international trade figures between the U.S. and Mexico on the U.S.-Mexico border ports of entries, other data areas were also sought after particularly for the region. Data regarding land usage—both commercial and residential, and workforce figures were just but a few examples of the other kind of data/information the Center's data users have re-

quested. Along with the type of data, there were requests for simple data comparisons over a span of time to more elaborate analyses.

Since these requests have increased over previous years, the Center's staff is working on a plan to upgrade the current Center's web site to allow easier access to these data and in the near future provide some value-added tools to accommodate the users. Under development is the expansion of data to be made available on-line both free and fee-based. At the moment, tier-based subscriptions are being discussed and what value-added data would be part of the free and fee-based line-up of data to be made available to the user.

As these issues are finalized, users will be notified by way of these reports or the Center's web site: <http://texascenter.tamui.edu>.

Census 2010 at the Texas Center

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau must conduct a count of everyone living in the United States as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, and everyone's participation is required by law. How important is the 2010 Census? It will determine the distribution of \$400 billion annually of governmental funding to local, state and tribal governments critical for planning of social services, roads, emergency services, jobs, community centers, schools and other programs. It will affect our voice in Congress, since it also determines the number of seats each state will have in the House of Representatives, and redistricting.

The Texas Center, as a partner, is providing a base of operations to Sylvia Mar-

tinez, Partnership Specialist, Dallas Regional Census Center and her assistants, Rosalinda Figueroa and Guadalupe Vicharelli. The Partnership Specialist is the Census Bureau's most locally visible contact, especially for reaching out to Hard to Count populations. The role of the Partnership Specialist is to work with local organizations and trusted leaders to get the word out and encourage response. The goal of the Partnership Program is to increase response rates and produce a more effective 2010 Census.

Interested in a temporary job with the 2010 Census? Contact the Bureau by calling toll-free: 1-866-861-2010 (TTY Callers: 1-800-877-8339) or by visiting the employment web site: <http://www.census.gov/2010jobs>. Call to schedule an appointment to take the test and apply for a job.

The Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development working alongside you today for a better tomorrow.

Profile: New Texas Center Employee

Leiza Nochebuena has recently joined the Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development (TCBEED) as an Assistant Program Manager.

Miss Nochebuena had previously been a member of the TCBEED team in the capacity of a research specialist.

Miss Nochebuena is a Texas A&M International University alumna, holding a Bachelor in Business Administration with a concentration in International Economics and a Masters in Business Administration in International Trade.

She has experienced world business culture through her international education experience in Spain, France, and China, while experiencing world culture through her extensive travels in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Miss Nochebuena's main research interests include economic and social development in the South Texas border region and developing nations.



Profile: Texas Center Data User

Sean Byrne is currently a second-year doctoral student at Texas A&M International University's A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business.

Mr. Byrne has a Bachelor in Business Administration in Finance from California State University-Stanislaus and earned a Masters in International Management from Thunderbird University.

Mr. Byrne worked for Merrill Lynch's Global Private Client Services in Mexico. He taught finance and accounting at California State University-Stanislaus.

His doctoral studies are funded by a fellowship from the A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business and by sponsorship from the California State University System.

Mr. Byrne's research interests are in applied econometrics and international finance along the U.S.-Mexico border. His doctoral thesis will focus on international banking with emphasis on the U.S.-Mexico border.



Border Business Indicators

The *Border Business Indicators (BBI)*, a Texas Center publication from 1990 to the present, has been in existence in a variety of formats since the 1980s. In its present configuration, the *BBI* covers twenty-two economic indicators for cities along the Rio Grande from Brownsville to El Paso, Texas.

On March 2003, the *Border Business Indicators* was reformatted to provide a more concise and "fast read" of the economic indicators for those cities on the Texas-Mexico border. In this current iteration, U.S.-Mexico trade information was incorporated as part of the monthly offerings in the *BBI*. Along with the inclusion of trade data, the fifteen indicators in the *BBI* publication were synchronized to the searchable data sets available on the on the Texas Center web site: <http://texascenter.tamui.edu>.

Vision Economic Outlook Report

The Texas Center's ongoing work with business and community organizations may result in a variety of collaborative publications and materials. One such publication is the *Vision Economic Outlook Report*.

The *Vision Economic Outlook Report* is prepared in cooperation with the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and has been in publication since the 1990s. The publication is distributed at the Vision Conferences held annually. The Vision Report provides a view of the City of Laredo's economic indicators, trade data and a timely point of the interest to the community. It is published once a year and is freely available at the Center's web site: <http://texascenter.tamui.edu>.

Texas Center Web Site

Since it first came on-line in 1998, the Texas Center's web site has been available to the public and has provided economic and trade data. From 2001, the Center has added searchable data directly from our data sets. In addition, links to other resources were included to guide users to other sites with valuable data and information. Subsequently, specialty publications were added to the site providing insight into the region. As the new decade approaches, the Center staff is working on plans to offer new data searches, filters, and reports. If you have not visited our site recently, do so as we start to upgrade our site <http://texascenter.tamui.edu>.

Texas Center Quarterly Report

First published in the Summer of 2009, the *Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development Quarterly Report* provides current information regarding on-going projects, additions or modifications to data sets and personnel changes.



Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development Quarterly Report Fall 2009 is prepared by the Center's staff for the purpose of communicating to the public the Center's mission, activities and services available to the area.

Have any questions about the Center, feel free to contact us at:

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