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E. De la Garza

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news release

For Immediate Release
21 October 1994

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DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES \$300,000 FOR UT-PAN AM

New University Outreach Center Will Serve Valley Colonias

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Kika de la Garza (TX-15) announced today's formal award to the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg of a \$300,000 grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) program, which will work to improve living standards in the Cameron Park and Progreso colonias.

"The plight of the colonias continues to touch my heart," said de la Garza. "Improving the disgraceful living conditions of our neighbors here in the Rio Grande Valley has been a top priority throughout my tenure as the Valley's representative in Washington. I am pleased to mark another milestone in our efforts both to help the colonias residents and to help them help themselves."

Outreach activities from the new center will be initiated through the county's existing Community Service Centers. Slated to begin next month, the COPC program will:

- Assist the community advisory council in establishing a Colonia Development Corporation (CDC);
- Implement an Entrepreneurial Skills Development Training program;
- Develop a micro-enterprise loan program to be run by the CDC;
- Implement a preventative health care program for the two neighborhoods;
- and,
- Mobilize crime prevention resources.