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Fifth Donation of \$225,000 Means Retailers Have Contributed Over \$1 Million to TEXAS Grant Program

(Dallas, Texas) – The Texas Retailers Education Foundation (TREF) will make their fifth donation to the College for All Texans Foundation for their TEXAS Grant Program on September 24, 2009.

What will this \$225,000 donation mean for Texans? 143 students will receive a grant that will allow them to achieve their education goals by graduating from a public college or university in the state.

“As Commissioner of Higher Education, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Texas Retailers Association and its education foundation for its continuing investment in the young people of Texas. With the latest gift of \$225,000, the Association has now contributed \$1,095,000 to the Texas Grant program, which enables needy young people to attend public institutions of higher education around the state. Nothing is more important to the future of Texas than educating our youngsters to their full potential and I am delighted to recognize TRA for its generosity and commitment to the well-being of our great state,” Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner of Higher Education for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said.

Representative Diane Patrick, who will participate in the TREF presentation, stated, “I am very pleased to be a part of this event as it represents a much needed investment by Texas retailers in our state’s future – through the education of our children. This contribution by the Texas Retailers Education Foundation and their ongoing commitment to the TEXAS Grant Program is an excellent example of the public-private partnership that will pay huge dividends by developing a workforce with the skills necessary to meet the future needs of a vibrant and growing economy.”

Senator Judith Zaffirini, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, said, "I am delighted that the Texas Retailer's Association is continuing its tradition of contributing to TEXAS Grants. This generous donation will help Texas colleges and universities attract more qualified students and encourage them to pursue college degrees, irrespective of their financial situation. Higher education is an impressive economic multiplier. Private donations to TEXAS Grants are a great investment in our state's future and will deliver remarkable economic and social returns. I look forward to working with TRA and my colleagues in the legislature to ensure that all deserving students have access to a higher education."

"I am grateful for the TREF's continued generosity and leadership to help Texas 'Close the Gaps,'" Representative Dan Branch, Chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, said. "In a tough economy, it's even more critical to support students working to earn a college degree."

What will the donation mean for retailers? It is an opportunity to partner with the Legislature and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on a program that will keep an educated and contributing workforce available for employment in the state. One in ten Texans will find a job in the retail field, so it is an early investment in the future success of their business.

"TREF is proud to be one of the largest donors to the TEXAS Grant Program with our fifth contribution in four years. We have now invested a total of \$1,095,000 in the future workforce of Texas, and we hope that with the continued generosity of retailers that this type of donation will be an annual affair," Juanita Elizondo, TREF Chair, said.

The Texas Retailers Association (TRA) is a trade association representing retail outlets across the state. The mission of the TRA is to be a strong advocate for the retail industry and to provide value-added services and programs pertinent to our members. Additional information is available at www.txretailers.org.

The Texas Retailers Education Foundation, the education arm of TRA, acts to expand awareness of the retail industry to current and potential employees as well as in the community; to educate fellow retailers on key business practices and issues through roundtable discussions, workshops or seminars; and to improve the Texas workforce through the funding of scholarships and educational opportunities.