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## **PRESS RELEASE**

August 17, 2009

### **WORKFORCE SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

County Judge Carlos H. Cascos will hold a press conference on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., at Primera City Hall, 22893 Stuart Place Road, Primera, Texas to announce a new Workforce Solutions Cameron initiative to strengthen and enhance job search assistance throughout the rural communities of Cameron County. Workforce Solutions Cameron's self-contained workforce center will roll into action on August 24, 2009, to take the services to the locations of the customers needing services.

"Limited transportation and the lack of internet services often hampers the efforts of individuals living in rural areas to search for employment or educational opportunities. Job opportunities increase when job seekers are able to access a multitude of resources within their own community. This initiative will provide that access. No longer will our residents face the need to drive into the urban areas to look for a job or to check out prospective training...", Judge Cascos said.

The Mobile Lab has recently been updated with a state-of-the-art high-speed satellite and computer system to provide enhanced job search and training opportunities to job seekers and employers. The lab has extensive capabilities including internet, resume programs, printers and special capabilities for the sight-impaired or those who need assistance with reading. The lab can be used to research employers, prepare resumes, or take computer based programs including Keyboarding, typing tutoring, ESL classes, Pre-GED courses, and Money Smarts.

"The initiative includes an effort to customize the availability of professional staff with backgrounds and knowledge in specific programs dependent upon the needs of the local community. For example, if a rural area's demographics identifies a large veteran population looking for work, a veterans' representative with knowledge and experience in specialized veterans programs will be available. The number of professional staff aboard the Mobile Lab has been increased to provide one-on-one services to individuals seeking assistance. Staff has recently received additional training on techniques to better serve individuals in these trying economic times and are experienced in working with candidates seeking employment or an upgrade in their professional life...", stated Judge Cascos.

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The mobile lab has scheduled sites throughout Cameron County, and the calendar may be accessed in the Workforce Solutions web page ([www.wfscameron.org](http://www.wfscameron.org)). The calendar is also posted throughout Cameron County in locations such as Multi-Service Centers, churches, schools, county buildings, city government offices, and private businesses.

Plans for future services include, but not limited to providing informative videos that will assist individuals in preparing for a positive interview, making a positive and lasting impression at their interview, and ways to improve their chances of getting a job.

The Workforce Solutions Mobile Lab is funded through a combination of funding ranging from WIA, USDA and EDA.

For further information, please contact Ms. Gaylen Lange, Interim Executive Director, at (956)548-6700.

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