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**UT Dallas Education Research Center Participates in  
Launch of Texas Consortium on School Research**  
*Focus on College Readiness*

**Richardson, Texas (Nov. 9, 2009)** – Leaders from 19 Texas school districts plus additional educational organizations gathered in Houston recently for the formation and launch of the Texas Consortium on School Research. The event was sponsored by the Regional Educational Laboratory – Southwest (REL Southwest at Edvance Research) and was held adjacent to the Texas Association of School Administrators and Texas Association of School Boards (TASA/TASB) fall conference.

The Texas Consortium was modeled on the successful work of the Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) who is collaborating on the Texas Consortium with REL Southwest, along with The University of Texas at Dallas Education Research Center (UTD-ERC).

The goal of the Texas Consortium is to allow members from districts across the state to collaborate in building research capacity to address critical issues to support improvement efforts. The Texas Consortium will also allow participants to create a “community of practice” through shared knowledge and practices.

The inaugural meeting focused on the issue of college readiness, which was identified as a priority issue in the state, especially with the rate of minority student graduation in Texas at less than 50%.

Dr. Dean Nafziger, REL Southwest at Edvance Research Laboratory Director, expressed enthusiasm for the establishment of the Texas Consortium stating, “School districts across the nation are seeking to understand how factors that impact student achievement can be positively affected to significantly improve student outcomes. The Texas Consortium can assist districts in utilizing evidence-based indicators to develop action plans that result in measurable improvements.”

School districts represented at the meeting included Aldine ISD, Austin ISD, Beaumont ISD, Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, Conroe ISD, Corpus Christi ISD, Cypress-Fairbanks, Dallas ISD, El Paso ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Galena Park ISD, Houston ISD, Humble ISD, Klein ISD, Lubbock ISD, Northside ISD, Plano ISD and YES Prep Public Schools. In addition, representation from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and the Institute of Education Sciences were present.

A second meeting of the Texas Consortium is planned for early 2010. Districts requesting more information may contact Dr. Laural Logan-Fain at lloganfain@edvanceresearch.com.

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