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## **Texas Schools Project Doubles Staff, Expands Facility**

**Richardson, TX (June 29, 2009)** – If you're looking for an available desk at Texas Schools Project (TSP), you might not find one. In fact, a classroom down the hall from TSP offices has temporarily been turned into workspace to handle the influx of new staff.

Dan O'Brien, TSP Director, shares, "We're continuing to find greater interest in both evaluation services and data access requests." He continues, "In addition, there are a variety of new partnerships we're pursuing that will require a larger workforce. As a result, we have expanded our staff to meet both our current needs as well as prepare for the future."

In June, eight new employees began working at TSP. Included in this group are Scott Horn, Data Manager; Kristin Klopfenstein, Senior Researcher; Kimberly Jones and Priyanka Singh, Research Scientists; and Michael Haydel, William Grover, James David Michael Latham, and Jing Li, Research Assistants.

Starting in July are Jim Parsons, Assistant Director, and Rodney Andrews, Senior Researcher.

"We have recruited an exceptional group of people," says Nidhi Mehrotra, TSP Associate Director, who was closely involved in the hiring process. She explains, "Kristin Klopfenstein is known nationally for her work in economics of education, especially in the area of the Advanced Placement Program. Scott Horn comes to us with extensive knowledge in managing data systems, having worked with Microsoft and GE among others. Kimberly Jones and Priyanka Singh both have abundant experience in evaluation services, having worked previously with the Dallas Independent School District in addition to other organizations. Jim Parsons comes to us as a founding member of the Joint Advisory Board and a leader in Texas education policy. And, Rodney Andrews was most recently the Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research at Harvard University."

Along with an expansion in staff comes an expansion of work space. Through a series of scheduled moves, TSP will, by September, increase the size of its facility by more than 3,000 square feet.

Included in this expansion are additional work stations for visiting researchers. O'Brien remarks, "While the new space is much needed to house current and future staff, I'm especially pleased that it will allow more room for visiting researchers to conduct on-site research." He continues, "Because of the extensive breadth of our education data, we see visiting researcher work as an area of significant growth for us."

Texas Schools Project, located at The University of Texas at Dallas, is one of the premier education research institutions in the country, working with leading researchers in Texas and throughout the country to analyze relevant, policy-related questions that benefit students in Texas and nationwide. Additionally, as one of three Texas Education Research Centers, they maintain an unparalleled source of PK-16 data, allowing researchers to follow Texas students from pre-Kindergarten through college.

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