

**DATE:** September 25, 2008  
**TO:** Texas Community Colleges  
**FROM:** Richard Moore, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** TCCTA Social Responsibility Web Site

Community colleges have historically been leaders in offering high-impact programs and services that benefit our students, our communities, and our state. Taken together, programs at our institutions are essential to the success of the people we serve. It is not an overstatement to say that there would be no middle class in Texas were it not for community colleges. If we are to find solutions for the nursing shortage ... or the teacher shortage ... or the EMT shortage ... or the fire-fighter shortage ... or the challenge of illiteracy ... or many of the other high priority challenges the state faces, we will find them at community colleges.

*We believe the success of Texas depends, in large measure, on the success of its community colleges.*

In order to showcase to state leaders the “macro” impact our colleges have on the state, and to help our institutions share great ideas, we are creating an area on our Web site focusing on social responsibility initiatives at our colleges. This project focuses on three main issues: *Green Building* (green campus construction, instructional programs like certificates for LEED building inspectors), *Citizen Building* (civic engagement, service learning, or community service opportunities that equip students to function as citizens in a democracy), and *Bridge Building* (diversity programs, international programs, cultural exchange and awareness programs).

As part of this effort, we invite you to submit information about specific programs and initiatives in these areas that your college is engaged in. As we receive submissions, we will post the information on our site. We plan to select some outstanding examples to acknowledge at our annual State Convention, in Austin this February. The site is designed as a place to share best practices and develop a database of resources colleges can use to enhance their programs. It will also be a place to showcase some of the high-impact things that are happening at community colleges.

Please consider the programs at your institution that are having the greatest impact in the areas we are addressing, then complete the attached form and return it by e-mail, to [chawkins@tccta.org](mailto:chawkins@tccta.org), or by fax, to 512-328-1086.

TCCTA has long served as a vital resource, “connecting people to people, institutions, resources and ideas.” We believe this project is an effective way to share best practices, and to present to state leaders many of the ways community colleges are “building a stronger Texas.”

# Texas Community College Teachers Association

## “Building a Better Texas” Social Responsibility Form



College: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Submission Category:

**Bridge Building**

- Cultural & Diversity Initiatives
- International Programs
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Citizen Building**

- Civic Engagement
- Community Service
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Green Building**

- Green Campus Construction
- Instructional Programs
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***We hope your great idea will inspire others throughout the state! Feel free to use a separate sheet of paper to share with us and your colleagues the details of your socially responsible program.***

- 1) How did it come about/Who started it?
- 2) Who is charged with primary responsibility for the program? What support does the program receive from the senior leadership of the institution?
- 3) How is it sustained? What is its budget?
- 4) How does this benefit your students, college, and community?
- 5) Are there vendors or other outside resources you used that you would recommend to others?
- 6) What advice would you offer to another institution that might consider implementing such a program?

*Please send in two pictures that best represent your project with your submission.*