
EFSCDP Newsletter 12th ed.

Institute for
Economic
Development

Eagle Ford Shale
Community Development Program
The University of Texas at San Antonio



From left to right: Mario Neira, Jose Alcala, Robert Velasquez & Gerald Gonzales

Goodbye, for Now

by The EFSCDP Team

The Eagle Ford Shale Community Development Program (EFSCDP) opened its doors at UTSA's Institute for Economic Development in October of 2012, thanks to a federal grant award from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). EFSCDP focused on community and economic development in twenty-one counties in and around the Eagle Ford Shale oil and gas activity. The purpose of the program has always been to provide communities in South Texas with planning services, research, workshops to generate economic development tools and skills to promote sustainable economic growth strategies. This was accomplished through the creation of community civic groups with support from the local leadership and a series of workshops that covered topics such as: building trust, future vision, scenario planning, synthesis and proposal writing.

Three and a-half years later, the EFSCDP was able to form solid teams that resulted in civic groups throughout the region. This included hosting two annual EFSCDP Best Practices Conferences where community civic groups could learn from each other. Fifteen counties were able to take advantage of the capacity building program that started the conversation in many of these communities. Some of the groups have been able to keep the effort alive over the years through project analysis, proposal development, and project implementation. Many of the projects that started as conversations during our workshops have now come to fruition, and that was in part due to the effort put forth by the citizenry of these vibrant communities in South Texas. UTSA was welcomed with open arms and that South Texas hospitality is something we will never forget. With the support from the County Judges, Commissioners, City Managers, Mayors, City Council members and the hundreds of concerned citizen participants, we want to say, "Thank You". While our EFSCDP's future may be uncertain, we want to say good-bye for now and hope to be back and be able to bring you more services.

In the meantime, EFSCDP Director, Robert Velasquez will be on hand as a point of contact to keep in touch if you need anything from UTSA and may be reached at [210-458-2490](tel:210-458-2490) or by email: bob.velasquez@utsa.edu. The Institute for Economic Development has 11 centers of excellence that will continue to serve businesses all over Texas. Please visit the UTSA Institute for Economic Development website, [here](#).

The Eagle Ford Shale Community Development Program is a training and development program funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) designed to respond to EFS rural community needs by providing: (1) planning services; (2) research; (3) workshops; (4) capacity building for prolonging sustainable economic development.



UTSA | Eagle Ford Shale Community Development Program | [210-458-2490](tel:210-458-2490) | [Website](#)