



Office of Economic Development
Kirk Clennan, CECD.
Director of Economic Development, City of Leander

For Immediate Release:

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Leander Education Surveys Now Available

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

LEANDER, TX – The Leander Education And Development Economic Resource Fund (L.E.A.D.E.R. Fund) has released its Workforce Needs Surveys. These surveys will help the community gauge the educational needs of Leander residents, business owners and high school students.

Surveys are available online at **www.LeanderHigherEd.org** and the survey period extends from March 20, 2006 to April 30, 2006. Residents, business owners and High School Juniors and Senior are encouraged to participate.

The surveys' purpose is to collect data from local stakeholders that pertains to educational needs and preferences. A report will be prepared from the collected data and delivered to area workforce and academic institutions. The primary goal of the L.E.A.D.E.R. initiative is to advocate the educational needs of City of Leander residents and business owners.

Leander City Councilmember and business professor, Vic Villarreal, created this initiative in August 2005. The initiative has received formal support via Leander City Council, Williamson County Commissioner's Court and the Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority resolutions. Leander Mayor John Cowman, Mayor Pro-Tem David Siebold and Leander Economic Development Director Kirk Clennan, CECD have also been actively engaged in this initiative. Additional support from Tom Glenn, L.I.S.D. Superintendent, and other community and business leaders has been received.

Councilmember Villarreal has stated, "My strong belief is that the data we will collect, and subsequent information we will present will provide a defensible position to create an institution of higher education within the City of Leander. We want workforce and academic institutions from throughout the area to know the educational needs and also the overall growth potential of this City and the entire western Williamson County area. Post secondary workforce and academic institutions are integral to the future of the City as business owners will continue to demand highly trained employees and residents will



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continue to demand educational post secondary choices close to home. It is my desire that our efforts establish The City of Leander as the education hub for western Williamson County and northwest Travis County. Few choices now exists in these regions, however the City of Leander is poised to provide the lead in education choice and access”.

To learn more about the Leander Education And Development Economic Resource Fund (L.E.A.D.E.R. Fund) visit **www.LeanderHigherEd.org**.

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