

## **UTSA ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

Barry S. McKinney Director, Student Activities

UTSA's Campus Crawl, an alcohol awareness program is featured as a model program in the BACCHUS Network's annual programming manual for National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

The manual has been distributed to more than 1,000 campuses across the United States as a model program for National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week (NCAAW) which is scheduled for October 19-25, 2008. During NCAAW, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of events, all designed by the campus to reinforce personal responsibility and respect for current state laws and school policies when it comes to the consumption of alcohol beverages.

The featured program is the "Campus Crawl," a program created by Kelsey Bratcher, Assistant Director for Risk Education, Alcohol and Drug Programs in collaboration with BARR, UTSA Residence Life and Housing, Campus Living Villages, UTSA Police and Student Judicial Affairs, provides students an entertaining late night program and informs them about the risks and responsibilities associated with alcohol. Participants were able to enjoy several different environments on campus and learn about alcohol poisoning, dangers of drinking games, how easily you can be drugged at a club, and where you can find assistance on campus.

University Oaks, Laurel Village, Chaparral Village and Chisholm Hall were the hosts for the progressive program that ended with a late night breakfast and free t-shirts for the participants. The first year of the event had over 100 students participate.

"Having a great team to work with is important for a program's success," Bratcher said. "The resident assistants were a vital part of putting together the different events and made the vision a reality."

Campus Crawl also won the BACCHUS Area 6 Outstanding Program award in February. Several Resident Assistants have presented the program at various conferences with positive reviews.

Campus Crawl will continue to be a part of Alcohol Awareness Week at UTSA. This year, the event will be Thursday, October 23 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. For updates and more information about UTSA's Alcohol Awareness Week events, visit [www.utsa.edu/sa/barr](http://www.utsa.edu/sa/barr) or contact Bratcher at 210.458.4160.

"Ultimately, campuses need to educate students about excessive drinking and consequences that can occur on both a personal and academic level. All college and university offices need to empower students to take responsibility for their own decisions and the campus environment when it comes to alcohol," Bratcher said. "We have to engage and empower students to take care of themselves and each other."

The BACCHUS Network, a university and community based network focusing on comprehensive health and safety initiatives, develops an annual programming manual for their affiliates for each NCAAW. BARR: Be A Responsible Roadrunner (BARR), is an affiliate of BACCHUS.