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UTSA TO GUARANTEE FREE TUITION AND FEES  
FOR LOW-INCOME FRESHMAN WHO TAKE 30 HOURS EACH YEAR

*New Financial Aid Package also includes on-campus work study jobs to help with other costs*

(San Antonio ...) Officials with the University of Texas at San Antonio announced today a new financial aid package, beginning fall 2007, for all incoming first-time freshman Texas residents with a family income of \$25,000 or less. Students who fit the criteria will receive grants and/or scholarships to cover their total tuition and mandatory fee expenditures for up to four years if they complete 30 credit hours each year and maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

“At UTSA, one of our mandates is to provide access to higher education for groups traditionally underserved – for students who are oftentimes the first in their family to attend college,” said UTSA President Ricardo Romo.

“With this financial aid package, we want to reach out to low-income families in our region to let them know the cost of going to college just got more affordable. UTSA is going to provide a large portion of the funds needed to attend college – at no cost to the family.”

Currently, tuition and mandatory fees for 30 hours is approximately \$6,000.

The program, coined UTSAccess (Undergraduate Tuition Support and Access), also includes a funded work-study element so students can work on campus 10-12 hours per week to earn money to help cover the cost of room and board and other educational expenses.

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Lisa Blazer, UTSA assistant vice president for financial aid and enrollment services said one advantage of the work study component is that it provides part time employment on campus with flexible work hours each semester.

“In addition to guaranteeing free tuition and mandatory fees, by getting this group of students set up for work study jobs at school, we know they will feel more a part of UTSA, spend more time on campus, get to know more faculty and staff and learn about services that are here to help them be successful.”

The UTSAccess program will actively provide support programs to help students handle the 30 hours per year so they can continue receiving funds and graduate on time. Support programs include increased academic advising, financial aid counseling, money management and tutoring.

To participate in the UTSAccess program, students with a family income of \$25,000 or less must apply and be admitted to UTSA; apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline of March 31, 2007; be registered for at least 12 hours each semester, although 15 is recommended; complete 30 credit hours each year; and, maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the premier institutions of higher education in South Texas and one of the fastest growing universities in the state. One of nine academic universities and six health institutions that comprise the UT System, UTSA is the second largest institution in the system. Celebrating its 37th anniversary, UTSA serves more than 28,300 students enrolled in 62 bachelor's, 43 master's and 19 doctoral degree programs.

Programs are offered through the colleges of Architecture, Business, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Honors, Liberal and Fine Arts, Public Policy, Sciences, and the Graduate School. A university of access and excellence, UTSA is a Hispanic-serving institution and is committed to research and discovery, teaching and learning, and public service.