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## **HOUSTON READ COMMISSION HELPS HOUSTON'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HELP OTHERS**

### ***Houston READ Commission's Colleges to Communities Program Needs Volunteers from Local Universities***

(Houston, Texas) March 3, 2010 – You're in college. You want to make a difference in your community but don't have all the time in the world. Here's a volunteer opportunity that just takes a few hours a week but can help change the paradigm of adult education instruction forever.

With a \$130K grant from Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Houston READ Commission embarks on its newest project: launching Colleges to Communities. Colleges to Communities (C2C) is a service-learning project with Houston's higher education institutions, in which university students enrolled in classes with a service-learning component receive training to teach financial, health and computer literacies in Houston's adult education provider sites. It serves as a way for university students to get involved in their communities and better understand how illiteracy affects all aspects of life. Simultaneously, it allows the literacy providers to leverage their resources by using volunteers to educate adult learners, instead of hiring paid instructors.

The Commission has been inundated with requests from literacy providers to be included in the project. All it needs now are university students to volunteer to tutor adult learners.

"Local colleges and universities have been enthusiastic about C2C, incorporating this service learning project into their curriculum and classrooms by awarding credits to students and stipends to professors for their participation," said Christine Spin, Houston READ Commission's Director of Provider Relations and Programs.

"The demand for C2C from adult literacy providers has been tremendous; thus we are working rigorously to create and codify partnerships with higher education institutions to provide this connection between our young leaders and the adults in our community who need critical life literacy information."

For more information on how to help, contact Karen Cave, Project Manager for C2C, at 713-590-2024 or [karen.cave@houread.org](mailto:karen.cave@houread.org).

## **About the Houston READ Commission**

The Houston READ Commission is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead and mobilize a coalition of literacy providers and resources to improve the literacy landscape of Houston.

Established in 1988 by the Mayor and City Council, the Houston READ Commission oversees the Mayor's Coalition for Literacy, an association of more than one hundred literacy sites in Houston. These member organizations, known as literacy providers, strive to eliminate illiteracy by offering educational services geared toward the specific needs of their communities. The Houston READ Commission's goal is to support and ensure providers' effectiveness.

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