



**STATEMENT FROM RICHARD CASTRO, CREEED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,  
ON  
US PREP GRANT AWARD TO UTEP**

El Paso, TX - Today, the University-School Partnerships for the Renewal of Educator Preparation (US PREP) announced that it would award the University of Texas at El Paso's College of Education a \$300,000 grant to enhance its teacher preparation program. Richard Castro, Chairman of the Board for the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED), the region's primary education advocacy and grantmaking organization dedicated to improving educational attainment for all students in El Paso, issued the following statement on this new partnership:

"We are pleased that a national organization that helps transform teacher preparation programs, such as US PREP, is partnering with UTEP's College of Education and El Paso Independent School District to strengthen their offerings of teacher preparation.

I would like to thank Amy O'Rourke, Director of CREEED's Choose To Excel programs, for working to facilitate the connection between US PREP and UTEP's College of Education, which provided Dean Tanabe of the UTEP College of Education the opportunity to submit a proposal to US PREP that has resulted in the grant award.

We know that teachers play an essential role in increasing student educational attainment, and that is why CREEED has been working with our local school districts to support initiatives they have underway that allow teachers to pursue additional degrees and certifications to expand their teaching practices as well as initiatives that expose teachers to new skills and learning models they can deploy in their classrooms.

Given CREEED's emphasis on expanding the number of high performing seats within the public k-12 system in order to graduate a college ready student from High School, the potential benefits and opportunities that the US PREP grant presents for these objectives at the UTEP College of Education is well timed.

This partnership will not only increase the supply of innovative and high-quality teachers in our region, but add to the range of programs that exist in El Paso for educator effectiveness and that help us increase educational attainment."