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SPC to participate in National TRIO Day celebration at Texas Tech

LEVELLAND – South Plains College will participate in National TRIO Day festivities with a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 5 in the Merket Alumni Center on the Texas Tech University campus in Lubbock.

Recipients of the TRIO Achiever Awards will be honored. Upward Bound at SPC will recognize Yuvisela Chavez and the Star Center will honor Jennifer Torres.

Chavez, a senior at Morton High School, immigrated to the United States with her family from Zacatecas, Mexico. She has earned recognition as the most outstanding math student during her junior year when she took classes in Algebra II and Pre-Calculus. She received a scholarship to attend Math Camp in San Marcos in summer 2008.

Torres graduated from Texas Tech University in December. She came to SPC after two semesters at Texas Tech and later transferred back to the university. She found support for first-generation students at SPC which made the venture to the Texas Tech more successful.

In 1965, Title IV of the Higher Education Act established the TRIO programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. TRIO began with three programs and now represents seven programs including Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, Student Support Services and the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

SPC offers two TRIO programs – Upward Bound Program and the STAR Center.

Upward Bound gives young students academic, personal and cultural enrichment to prepare them for higher education. Students enrolled in the ninth through eleventh grades are eligible for the program. The SPC Upward Bound Program serves students from Brownfield, Levelland, Littlefield, Morton, Whiteface and Whitharral.

The STAR Center (Student Support Services) provides its participants with educational tools necessary to be successful in college. The program is designed to increase the rates of retention, graduation and/or transfer to a four-year institution of the students enrolled in the program.

For information about Upward Bound, contact Chris Riley, director, at 806-716-2651. For the STAR Center, contact Rita Quinonez-Prieto, director, at 806-716-2751.

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