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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2008

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**Texas Commissioner of Higher Education to Speak at
University of Texas at Arlington to Launch
“Engaging Conversations”**

AUSTIN, Texas- Texas Campus Compact (The Compact) in collaboration with The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), Southern Methodist University (SMU) and Texas Christian University is presenting “*Engaging Conversations,*” to be hosted by The University of Texas at Arlington April 25th, Global Youth Service Day.

High school and college students along with faculty and staff are invited to come to the University of Texas at Arlington campus for a day of learning about civic engagement, Service-Learning, community project opportunities and how college is possible for all Texans. Attendees have the chance to hear from experts and faculty during our “Closing the Gaps” panel discussions, highlighting Texas Commissioner of Higher Education, Raymund Paredes.

The event was made possible after The Compact received a \$1,000 award from State Farm to launch a service-learning project for Global Youth Service Day, the largest

service event in the world. The Compact is one of 100 State Farm® Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award winners chosen by Youth Service America and funded by State Farm Companies Foundation. Compact AmeriCorps VISTAs Amie Lewis and Joe Macchia of TCU and SMU respectively, assisted in drafting the request for the prestigious award.

“The State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning grant winners demonstrate unprecedented global caring and initiative, showing the world that young people can be leaders today, not in some distant tomorrow,” says Steve Culbertson, president and CEO of Youth Service America. “By combining the dynamics of leadership, service and learning, the grant recipients build some of the most valuable skills— academic achievement and workforce readiness.”

This opportunity to become further engaged in higher education and increase college access is the first of many conversations The Compact plans to hold at campuses around the state of Texas.

Come be a part of the “*Engaging Conversations*” Friday April 25 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 100, Nedderman Hall at 702 Planetarium Place, Arlington, TX 76019.

The event is free, with breakfast and lunch provided by UTA. Registration closes April 21st. More information and registration forms can be found at The Compact’s website, www.TexasCampusCompact.org.

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