

TAMIU Enactus named Regional Champions

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Social media management, website creation and a list of assistance provided to area small businesses helped propel Texas A&M International University student organization Enactus to earn "Regional Champions" status at the Enactus Regional Competition held recently in Dallas.

TAMIU was one of nine teams to receive the Regional Champion Award. A total of 18 teams competed.

Enactus co-president David Canseco, a senior business administration major, was also offered an internship opportunity with chain retail warehouse club, Sam's Club at the Regional Competition.

TAMIU's team will next participate in the Enactus United States National Exposition May 15-17 in St. Louis, Missouri. The exposition is a dramatic, energy-filled event, where teams showcase the collective impact of their community outreach efforts before business leaders.

TAMIU Enactus team members who participated in the Regional Competition and presented their projects before judges included Eustolia Morales, Idalia Ramos, Damian Sentien, Adan Soliz, Vanessa García, Cynthia Ontiveros, Daniela Reyna, David Canseco, Jesus Cavazos and Kimberly González.

Enactus is a community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of



Courtesy photo / TAMIU

TAMIU Enactus members celebrate their victory at the Enactus Regional Competition in Dallas.

entrepreneurial action to enable human progress. Enactus students apply business concepts to develop community outreach projects, transform lives and shape a better, more sustainable world.

At the Regional Competition TAMIU Enactus members also received notification of individual awards earned for their service to the community.

Service Leadership Award recipients for their 100 hours of service are: Adan Soliz, Eustolia Morales, Jesús Cavazos, Veronica Martínez and Nefali Ibarra.

Platinum Service Leadership Award recipients for their 500 hours of service are: Daniela Reyna, David Canseco and Arelly Hernández.

The students will re-

ceive certificates and badge recognitions in St. Louis.

This year, TAMIU Enactus identified the need to empower small businesses in the face of strong competition from large corporations and companies that are starting to appear locally, said Canseco.

"Some of the businesses empowered were Deadzone Paintball, La Chocolateka, Audiovisual, Atomic Elite Sports Complex and Pizza Ricco," he said.

Trainings Enactus provided to the businesses included understanding credit, basic record keeping, social media management, promotional video creation, radio commercial creation, website creation, implementation of

point of sale system, coupon creations, flyer development, and environmental audits.

"We also helped them discover new and innovative ideas that will potentially attract more customers to their businesses," Canseco said.

At the competition, TAMIU's team received compliments from business leaders, Canseco said.

"At regionals, we were one of the most talked-about teams and TAMIU was the first team to be called upon to receive its award," Canseco said. "Business professionals from Sam's Club, Walmart and KPMG approached us to congratulate us on the impact our projects were having in the Laredo community."

Groups offer mental health discussions

LAREDO MORNING TIMES

Mental health-related illnesses and the lack of adequate mental health providers and services in the Mid Rio Grande Border region continue to escalate.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, about 1 in 5 adults aged 18 or older had a mental illness in the past year and 4.1 percent had a serious mental illness. In 2014, 11.4 percent of youths aged 12 to 17 (2.8 million adolescents) had a major depressive episode in the past year.

Education and awareness about mental health disorders is critical for all communities. For this reason, the Mid Rio Grande Border Area Health Education Center, the Texas Department of State Services Office of Border Health and the Border Region Behavioral Health Center continue to partner in providing quarterly community conversations on mental health issues.

The idea is to engage community members in discussions to help identify resources, share experiences and learn about the support services available for individuals needing mental health services and their family members. At the request of those needing mental health services, the Mid Rio Grande Border Area Health Education Center continues to identify opportunities for improving mental health awareness

for everyone, especially the youth.

Most recently, Youth Mental Health First Aid training is offered to adults who work directly with the youth in the community. Information on the content of this training and a brief overview of the project was presented during the recent community conversation offered April 5 at Border Region Behavioral Health Center by Nohely Escobedo, certified instructor.

Over 34 community members participated in the discussion and were invited to learn about the types of mental health disorders most prevalent among the youth and the adult population. The discussion generated answers to various concerns expressed by those attending the session.

"Learning about the signs and symptoms of mental health disorders can make the difference in providing adequate assistance to those individuals who need help," said Julie Bazan, Area Health Education Center executive director.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, some mental health disorders are closely related and may have overlapping signs and symptoms.

The quarterly conversation gatherings are offered at no cost and everyone is invited to attend. The next community gathering is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 5 at Border Region Behavioral Health Center.

THE BLOTTER

On the web @ social.lmtonline.com

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

► Sergio Pena, 40, was arrested on a DWI charge at 1:41 a.m. Sunday in the 100 block of Bayside Boulevard.
► Miguel Hernandez, 53, was arrested on a DWI charge at 8:56 p.m. Saturday in the 4400 block of McPherson Road.

ASSAULT

► Juan Montes, 20, was arrested on an assault, family violence charge at 1:47 a.m. Sunday in the 2400 block of Pierce Street.
► Elio Alvarado Ortiz, 21, was arrested on an assault, family violence charge at 10:49 p.m. Saturday in the 300 block of East Taylor Street.
► Gorgonio Cundapi Goidines, 42, was arrested on an assault, family violence charge at 9:54 p.m. Saturday in the 4700 block of Maher Avenue.
► Perla Navarro, 26, was arrested on an assault, family violence charge at 5:42 p.m. Saturday in the 5300 block of Texas 359.
► Luis Castro, 20, was arrested on an assault, family violence charge at 5:28 p.m. Saturday in the 1800 block of South New York Avenue.
► Hipolito Vasquez, 21, was arrested on an assault, family violence charge at 4:46 p.m. Saturday in the 3800 block of Santa Cleotilde Avenue.

EVADING ARREST

► Hector Ortiz, 23, was arrested on an evading arrest, detention charge at 1:27 a.m. Sunday in the 6500 block of Arena Boulevard.
► Adolfo Garza, 27, was arrested on an evading arrest, detention with a vehicle charge at 6:55 p.m. Saturday in the 5300 block of Texas 359.

THEFT

► David Gomez, 20, was arrested on charges of theft of motor vehicle and assault (offensive contact) at about 12:15 a.m. Sunday in the 3300 block of La Pita Mangana Road.

Austin voters keep fingerprinting for Uber, Lyft drivers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — Fingerprinting drivers for ride-hailing companies must continue in Texas' capital city after voters rejected a \$9 million campaign by Uber and Lyft to overturn the safety measure.

Both Uber and Lyft threatened to leave Austin, which hosts major annual events such as the South by Southwest and Austin City Limits music festivals, on Monday after Saturday's defeat, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

"Lyft and Austin are a perfect match and we want to stay in the city," Lyft spokeswoman Chelsea Wilson said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the rules passed by City Council don't allow true ridesharing to operate."

Voters decided to keep city rules that require ride-hailing company drivers to undergo fingerprint-based background checks by Feb. 1, 2017.



Mark Ralston / Getty Images

This file photo taken on shows a man checking a vehicle at the first of Uber's "Work On Demand" recruitment events, in Los Angeles. Ride-sharing services are set to quit Austin after voters said fingerprinting should be part of background checks.

Austin also prohibits drivers from stopping in traffic lanes for passenger drop-offs and pick-ups, includes requirements for identifying vehicles for hire and imposes data reporting on the ride-hailing companies.

The finger-printing question was the key fight in the campaign, and spurred the most expensive campaign in city history.

Austin appeared to be the chosen battleground for ride-hailing companies that are facing similar restrictions in major cities across the country, including Chicago, Los Angeles and Atlanta. Uber recently threatened to leave Houston, which requires drivers to be fingerprinted, drug-tested and undergo a physical before they can drive for the service.

Advocates for fingerprinting say it's the best way to weed out drivers with criminal records. Ride-hailing companies have said their background checks suffice and that fingerprint databases can be out of date. Fingerprinting can also slow down the process of quickly adding new drivers.

"Uber, I think, decided they were going to make Austin an example to the nation," said political consultant David Butts, who led the Austin campaign to defeat the repeal. "And Austin made Uber an example to the nation."

Uber Austin general manager Chris Nakutis said the company was disappointed to be shutting down operations in Austin.

"We hope the City Council will reconsider their ordinance so we can work together to make the streets of Austin a safer place for everyone," Nakutis said.

Ride-hailing compa-

nies may try to go around local governments if they can; in 2015, they pushed for a statewide ride-hailing regulation bill for Texas and could try again in 2017.

State Sen. Charles Schwertner, a Republican, announced Sunday he will file legislation to create statewide regulations of ride-hailing companies, which he considers an effective weapon against drunk driving.

The companies "can no longer operate effectively through a patchwork of inconsistent and anti-competitive regulations," Schwertner said.

Austin Mayor Steve Adler, who had urged defeat of the ordinance repeal, said he hopes to get Uber and Lyft back to the city's negotiating table.

"We're at a place right now where we welcome Uber and Lyft to stay in the community, and I hope that they'll continue to talk with me," Adler said Saturday night.

Permit request dropped for East Texas reservoir

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACKSONVILLE, Texas — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has withdrawn a request for a federal permit to build an East Texas reservoir that's been in the works for nearly 40 years.

The Corps last month withdrew the permit application for the proposed \$387 million Lake Columbia Regional Water Supply Reservoir Project. Corps officials cited relative inactivity since 2013 in the project managed by the Lufkin-based Angelina and Neches River Authority, according to The Lufkin News.

Lake Columbia is proposed for the Mud Creek flood plain, a tributary of the Angelina River, with the dam about 5 miles southeast of Jacksonville. ANRA in 1978 began planning what was then informally called Mud Creek Reservoir.

ANRA's general manager,

Kelley Holcomb, remains optimistic about the project and says "in no way is this the end." The ANRA will reply to the Corps within the 90-day window with requested documentation about the plans, according to Holcomb.

In a letter dated April 14, Stephen Brooks, chief of the regulatory division of the Corps' Fort Worth district, notified ANRA of the application withdrawal, citing "relative inactivity of the project for more than three years." Brooks also stated that the data collected and developed for the project area was considered "stale."

ANRA submitted the application for the permit on Oct. 31, 2000. The agency has spent about \$3.9 million to address the Corps' permitting and National Environmental Policy Act requirements, according to an April 20 response letter to the Corps from Holcomb.



Steve Knight / Associated Press

This area of the Mud Creek floodplain at U.S. Highway 79 east of Jacksonville is proposed to become part of the Lake Columbia Regional Water Supply Reservoir Project. Engineers have withdrawn a request for a federal permit to build the reservoir.

"What's most critical at this point is getting the Corps of Engineers to rescind its decision to withdraw the application," Holcomb said.

Lake Columbia is a recommended water supply strategy in the 2007 State Water Plan and the 2006 Regional Water Plan, according to ANRA.