

## **NOMINATION FOR SOUTHERN REGION DIVERSITY AWARD–TEAM**

Alpha Zeta Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Texas



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### **Team Members:**

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## **OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

### **Program Description:**

There are over 6000 child care providers in southeast Texas. These include child care centers and home based care. State guidelines dictate that each director must participate in at least 20 clock hours of training and all staff must obtain at least 15 clock hours of training annually.

Childhood obesity has been identified as a major issue to be dealt with in southeast Texas. Childhood obesity is a concern of all ethnic groups but particularly of the Hispanic and African American. There is a large percentage of Hispanic and African Americans living in this area of Texas.

The child care conference, *All Aboard for the Child Care Express!* was developed to provide workers with information on childhood obesity and the issues that surround this problem. The conference also provided training in areas dictated by state standards. The activity was held at a two year college with easy access to major highways.

### **Concerns and Issues:**

The southeast Texas district includes 18 counties, only two of which are considered urban. Child care workers in the mid-section to eastern area of the district were targeted. This covered nine of the eighteen counties in the district. Available training in rural counties is scarce and often considered expensive in relation to workers salaries.

### **Accomplishments:**

Over 200 child care workers attended the day long conference. Nineteen speakers presented 32 classes for the workers. Six clock hours were given to each participant which attended the keynote address, four sessions and visited with each of the vendors. CEUs were available to participants who pre-registered for them.

### **Support Statement:**

The child care conference conducted by Texas Extension District 9 provides needed help to workers across the region. The trained professionals work with children of many nationalities, religious backgrounds, disabilities, and income levels. The main desire by all is to provide the best care possible. They have accomplished their task and continue to improve future trainings through customer satisfaction evaluations and program modifications.