



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## **PUBLIC SERVANTS RECOGNIZED**

The Coastal Bend Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration held its first annual Public Service Recognition Week luncheon and awards program on Thursday, May 8, at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History in Corpus Christi, Texas, with County Judge Samuel "Lloyd" Neal serving as the guest speaker for the event.

Shirley Esparza, Victim's Assistance Coordinator for Nueces County District Attorney's office was named the Public Service and Community Service Individual of the Year by the chapter. Shirley worked with the Coastal Bend AIDS Foundation, the Women's Shelter of South Texas, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving before joining Nueces County. She has made a career of helping others, and serving the public.

Dr. Daniel Jorgensen, Associate Professor of Public Administration and Chair of the Department of Public Administration at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi was named Public Service Educator of the Year. Dr. Jorgensen was instrumental in bringing the Certified Public Manager program to the area, in the formation of the Coastal Bend Chapter of ASPA, and in the development of a Pi Alpha Alpha chapter, a national public service honor society, at the University. In addition, Dr. Jorgensen has served as a consultant to numerous non-profit organizations in the area.

Angel Escobar, Director of Engineering Services for the City of Corpus Christi, was named Public Service Administrator of the Year. Angel was assigned to oversee the Water Department earlier in the year to restore the integrity of the City's water supply, and has served as Interim City Manager as well, all while continuing the work of the Engineering Services Department and the many capital improvement projects underway across the city.

In addition, the ASPA Coastal Bend Chapter recognized recent graduates of the Master of Public Administration program at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, and presented a gift of \$200 to the new Pi Alpha Alpha honor society as a sign of support for their achievements, and future growth.

The Coastal Bend Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration was chartered on July 23, 2007 to serve public servants in the Aransas, Kleberg, Jim Wells, Nueces and San Patricio counties. The chapter is one of over 100 chapters in ASPA, the nation's most respected society representing all forums in the public service arena since 1939. ASPA has a diverse membership of approximately 9,500 government and nonprofit administrators, scholars, educators, and students. Membership is open to individuals in government, non-profit or university services.

(photos attached)