



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Awards \$318,000 to Expand Educational Opportunities in Rural Schools

San Antonio, TX, December 8, 2011 - Education Service Center, Region 20 (ESC-20) has been awarded \$318,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant program. Through the award of this grant, nine (9) of our most rural schools will reap extensive benefits in education through the use of advanced telecommunications technologies. Partners on this grant include:

Big Springs Charter School
Center Point Elementary
Charlotte Elementary
Cotulla (Encinal, Frank Newman, Ramirez-Burks Elementary, Cotulla High School)
Poteet Elementary
Uvalde Batesville School

The purpose of the ESC-20 DLT program is to provide high-definition distance learning equipment to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as upgrade the ESC-20 bridge equipment and scheduling software. The "Visions Your Future" program will include an interactive lecture series for elementary, middle and high school students focused on the career clusters that are most in demand in the San Antonio area (Manufacturing and biosciences).

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