

Tesoro Foundation awards \$200,000 grant to support San Antonio Prefreshman Engineering Program

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(San Antonio, July 16, 2015) -- The San Antonio-based Tesoro Foundation has made a two-year, \$200,000 grant to the San Antonio Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP), according to a joint announcement by Tesoro Corporation (NYSE:[TSO](#)) and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The grant will support PREP to provide services to 1,500 students in the San Antonio area each year.

Manuel Berriozabal, a retired mathematics professor, established PREP in 1979 at UTSA. Since that time, the PREP model has been replicated across Texas, with programs from Dallas to the Rio Grande Valley, and in five additional states: New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Utah and California. In San Antonio alone, PREP has educated nearly 17,000 middle and high school students since its inception.

A seven-week program offered over four summer sessions, PREP stresses the development of abstract reasoning skills, problem solving skills and their application. It also provides college-bound youth with mentors and a daily career awareness seminar featuring local professionals from various STEM fields. By attending PREP on a college campus, students learn about higher education and the opportunities that it affords.

The PREP curriculum includes mathematics, problem solving, engineering, physics, technical writing, water science, nanotechnology, cybersecurity and computer science. In addition to gaining a jumpstart on advanced topics in the hard sciences and mathematics, PREP students have the opportunity to earn high school credit and college scholarships.

The Tesoro Foundation's support will help PREP with the costs associated with instructional materials, supplies, faculty, certified counselors and program mentors. Additionally, the two-year award will enable recruitment and outreach efforts to raise awareness of PREP among parents, teachers and students.

"It takes a great deal of support from strong partners to sustain a program like PREP," said Rudy Reyna, executive director of PREP. "This grant from the Tesoro Foundation will have a direct impact on our ability to recruit, teach and prepare highly talented middle school and high school students for careers in STEM fields, especially students who have been traditionally underrepresented in these areas."

"Tesoro's success relies on our ability to recruit and retain employees with exceptional STEM-related skills," said Jared T. Skok, executive director of the Tesoro Foundation. "We are proud to support PREP and its efforts to provide high-quality STEM programs for our San Antonio youth."

"We are grateful for the Tesoro Foundation's interest in and support of PREP," added Reyna. "Because of this grant, some really talented teens will have the opportunity to participate in a top-tier STEM program this summer and leave prepared to take their education to yet another level."

About Tesoro Corporation

Tesoro Corporation, a Fortune 100 company, is an independent refiner and marketer of petroleum products. Tesoro, through its subsidiaries, operates six refineries in the western United States with a combined capacity of over 850,000 barrels per day and ownership in a logistics business which includes a 36 percent interest in Tesoro Logistics LP (NYSE:[TLLP](#)) and ownership of its general partner. Tesoro's retail-marketing system includes over 2,200 retail stations under the ARCO®, Shell®, Exxon®, Mobil®, USA Gasoline™ and Tesoro® brands.

Tesoro Foundation is an independent philanthropic affiliate of Tesoro Corporation with a mission to create cleaner, safer, well-educated communities where it operates.

About UTSA

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is an emerging Tier One research institution specializing in health, energy, security, sustainability, and human and social development. With nearly 29,000 students, it is the largest university in the San Antonio metropolitan region. UTSA advances knowledge through research and discovery, teaching and learning, community engagement and public service. The university embraces multicultural traditions and serves as a center for intellectual and creative resources as well as a catalyst for socioeconomic development and the commercialization of intellectual property—for Texas, the nation and the world.

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