TABC TODAY

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- Direct Wine Shipment

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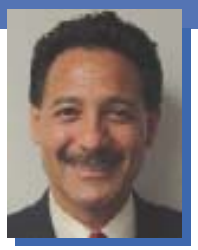
Commissioner Cuevas



Jose Cuevas, Jr.

Challenge to Parents: Get INVOLVED & Take ACTION PREVENT Underage Drinking

That whirlwind of frenetic energy stirring up the desert sand in Midland is no dust devil—just new TABC Commissioner Jose Cuevas clearing a path across Texas to spread his message of hope, opportunity, progress, and education.

Appointed last fall by Governor Perry and sworn in by TABC Chairman John Steen, Jr., Commissioner Cuevas exemplifies the success of Hispanic business growth. "You're the American dream, brother!" Perry cheered as he made the announcement. In 1979 as a 22-year-old newlywed, Cuevas opened his first JumBurrito, now one of six restaurants of a rapidly expanding corporation in Midland.

This dynamo comes equipped with a turbo-charged drive and an unfailing optimism that fueled his departure from humble beginnings to a future as a successful small-business owner, community activist, philanthropist, Midland City Council member, and economic advisor to President Bush—remarkable accomplishments for a young Hispanic man who bridged the racial and economic divides of white-collar Midland in the '70s to live his dream.

Grateful for his successes, the Commissioner generously gives back to the community. He's received numerous awards for his contributions to business, community service and education, for example, *TSTA Friend of Education* award, *YMCA Volunteer of the Year*, and *Hispanic Businessman of the Year*. Currently, he serves on the Board of the George W. Bush Childhood Home, Inc., University of Texas Permian Basin Development Advisory Board, and Midland Memorial Hospital Board of Governors, to name a few.

TABC Chairman John T. Steen, Jr., (right) swears in new Commissioner Jose Cuevas, Jr. (left) under Commissioner Madden's watchful eyes.

By accepting his new appointment, Commissioner Cuevas expanded his sense of community responsibility to include all of Texas—sparking his passion to be of greater service to the state. As a marathon runner, he's got the endurance to go the distance.

"Although I've only had a limited time at the agency to see how the system works, I applaud Chairman Steen's commitment to innovation and new technologies that will make this organization stronger and more responsive to the needs of stakeholders," he said.

This new Commissioner also enthusiastically supports the TABC initiative to inform parents of the consequences of providing minors with alcohol. Through his extensive experience as a community advocate, Cuevas knows how to rally a crowd to take action.

"Kids are our most precious commodity, and I want to build strength in communities to help curb the tide of underage drinking and DWIs," he said. "Parental involvement is the key ingredient for change. *Nothing* moves forward without parental involvement."

This intensely inquisitive man persistently searches for answers and encourages others to do the same. "When I speak to at-risk kids, I tell them not to take *'no'* for an answer. When someone tells me to do something because they *'say so,'* I always ask, 'Why?' "

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A strong believer in improving the status quo, Commissioner Cuevas challenges TABC employees to identify barriers to issue resolution and suggest effective ways to improve information management and other agency processes.

"By the end of my term, I hope that I've helped TABC in a small way that will have a big impact in Texas. The action we take today makes a difference in the future." His term expires Nov. 15, 2009.

In the Beginning

Several early experiences inspired his desire to achieve. "As one of eight kids in a crowded three-bedroom house with one bathroom, I was pretty motivated to get out on my own and went to school year-round so I could graduate from high school a year early," he laughed. "Plus, I knew I'd never go hungry again if I opened my own restaurant."

Why burritos? "Well, when I was in elementary school, I realized burritos had great value because I could trade *one* for *two* peanut butter sandwiches," he bragged.

One day when his father drove the kids through the "rich" part of town, young Jose gawked wide-eyed at the red brick houses and fancy cars. "I'd never seen brick houses before. We only had wooden frame houses in our neighborhood. I knew then that I wanted a house and car like that," he said with determination and a chuckle.

The laughter that reveals a contagious and endearing sense of humor fades and the mood becomes somber as Commissioner Cuevas recounts a painful childhood memory that triggered his resolve and ambition.

"I remember the exact moment I knew I was going to make something of myself. I was in the sixth grade and my teacher was calling roll. She kept mispronouncing my name over and over again. Finally she said in an irritated and angry tone of voice, *'Why can't you Mexicans have regular American names?!'* The kids in the class started laughing and I felt terrible. From that time on, I was determined I wasn't going to be crippled by someone else's intolerance. I set goals for myself and went after my dream."

> **"Kids are our most precious commodity and I want to build strength in communities to help curb the tide of underage drinking and DWIs. Parental involvement is the key ingredient for change."**
>
> **—Commissioner Cuevas**

Sharing Hope

Blessed with a mind overflowing with ideas, the "gift of gab," a generous heart borne of humility, a bright spirit shining with purpose, and the energy of a super nova, Jose Cuevas was destined to become a champion of the less fortunate and an advocate for hope and humanity.

Grateful for his good fortune, Cuevas founded H.O.P.E.—Hispanics for Opportunity, Progress and Education—a nonprofit, grassroots organization designed to empower Hispanics with the know-how to create their own opportunity. The challenge, he says, is apathy and convincing people that they *can* make a difference.

"Hispanics will soon become the majority and will shape the future of Texas. They *must* prepare themselves for leadership roles through education. Nothing is more important than education—this is the key to success," he said as he reflected on the challenges facing Hispanics. "Parents must take charge of their children's education and engage actively in setting education policy. They must do all they can to prevent roadblocks, such as underage or irresponsible drinking."

Cuevas meets with parents throughout the state to encourage them to become a part of the policymaking process by sitting on the boards of community organizations or communicating with policymakers. He tells them emphatically that, "You ***can*** and you ***must*** become community leaders. You ***must*** take action and solve problems that threaten the well-being of your children, such as preventing underage drinking, and reducing the drop-out rate and teen pregnancy."

By sharing how he made his dream come true, Cuevas hopes to inspire other Hispanics to have faith that although they may live in poverty, they can improve their lives through hard work and the will to succeed.

"There are many minorities who wear chips on their shoulders because they've had a hard life. I tell these kids, 'Sure life isn't easy, life isn't fair, and there is no perfect family. But sometimes we have to go through discomfort today so we can make a difference in the future.' I want them to know they don't have to be trapped in a life of despair, when they can choose a life full of opportunity."

Cuevas believes the Hispanic community will find their voice and their opportunity. He believes it, because he's done it—with the loving support of his wife, Diane, and their three children, Sarah, Morgan and Eric.

In 1979 while working at the Midland Hilton, Cuevas met his soon-to-be wife. Young, but ever optimistic and persistent, Jose asked her out "a thousand times and she said no a thousand times," he laughed. "But one day I asked if she needed a ride. She said '*yes*' and we've been riding together ever since."

After they married, they saw a sign that changed their lives—"Going Out of Business, Restaurant Equipment $2,500"—exactly what they had saved for a house. "At first we never thought we'd make it, but with the Lord looking over our shoulder and a burning desire to do our best, it's worked out."

Administrator's Corner

Alan Steen

The past six months have been exciting watching alcohol-related bills work their way through the legislative process—some becoming law and some falling by the wayside.

My staff and I were proud to participate in this remark-able process, serving as a resource to the legislators to help them make the best decisions possible.

Sunset Review. The most important bill for our agency—the Sunset bill—was held up in committee and did not pass this session. However, TABC's authority to exist was extended until September 1, 2007, and TABC will go through the Sunset process again during 2006-2007.

Although the Sunset bill did not pass, it was not a result of concerns about TABC's performance or whether the agency should continue to exist. Unfortunately, ongoing discussions between state government leadership and the industry regarding an interim study of the Alcoholic Beverage Code were unresolved.

Although the Sunset Commission should limit its next review to the appropriateness of recommendations made in their recent report to the Legislature, they may include others they consider appropriate.

Moving Forward. There were some commonsense recommendations made in the Sunset Report, especially the need for a greater focus on public safety.

We've already begun developing a more risk-based approach to our enforcement efforts by developing regional actions plans focused on areas of the state with a history of DWI's and licensed establishments with a history of violations.

We'll continue to improve our strategic planning process, focus more on research and data to support our goals, enhance our education programs, revise our penalty chart, and transfer certain responsibilities from commissioned to civilian staff to increase the time enforcement staff spend on public safety issues.

Several months ago, we implemented new policies and procedures making it easier to file complaints regarding the actions of TABC employees, as well as a new tracking system for complaints filed against licensed establishments.

We're also overhauling our agency policy and procedures manual to better clarify and document internal processes.

> "Regardless of last-minute problems with the Sunset bill, I am proud of the outcome of the Sunset review and believe it was a positive reflection on the work we have done."

The agency has also been automating more functions, such as phasing out the paper-based delinquency list.

A Bright Future. A lot of work went into the last review, on our part and the part of the Sunset staff and committee. I must admit that having the Sunset bill stall in committee creates some level of disappointment.

However, we've got a tremendous amount of work ahead for us, such as the technology transformation project, developing a new strategic plan, and hiring and training new employees. We now have the chance to get all of this behind us before the next Sunset review.

These are exciting times as we shift the focus of law enforcement personnel to public safety, allowing our regulatory staff more opportunity to focus on industry issues. At the same time, we ask for your patience while we undergo these changes.

Alan Steen

TABC Gets "Go-Ahead" to Ramp Up Enforcement Efforts

Thanks to Texas lawmakers, TABC will soon put more than 50 new agents on the streets to protect the health and safety of Texas citizens.

Back to Basics. Recently, TABC Administrator Alan Steen announced his "Back-to-Basics" plan for enforcement agents.

"The additional agents and 'back-to-basics' approach to enforcement priorities will ultimately save more lives," Steen said.

Administrator Steen says this shift in priorities will enable enforcement agents to focus on enforcement activities.

"Our specialized law enforcement agents need to be in the bars and restaurants preventing DWI's and addressing other public safety concerns," he said.

According to Enforcement Chief Sam Smelser, "Not only are we sending out every avaliable agent, but compliance officers will conduct regulatory inspections, allowing our agents to focus on high-risk locations."

Strategic Planning Leads to Action. During the session, TABC requested additional agents for a new pilot program aimed at reducing DWI's on our highways. The new program will focus on prevention and ways to ensure retail establishments do not sell to intoxicated persons.

Regional action plans have been developed that incorporate this new pilot project. These plans outline proactive strategies that encourage public awareness and voluntary compliance of alcoholic beverage laws. They also give the agency the ability to analyze trends and measure the success of their programs.

As part of this strategic planning, staff in each region identified public safety issues and resources needed to reduce the number of alcohol-related wrecks and fatalities, and DWIs.

The pilot project involves gathering information from local and state law enforcement to pinpoint areas with numerous DWIs, wrecks and fatalities. With this data, enforcement staff will be able to allocate more agents to high-risk locations.

Other programs and strategies to improve compliance include:

- public education
- undercover operations
- retailer education
- minor stings
- public intoxication stings
- follow-up investigations

New security programs at TABC ports of entry reassure tourists and deter crime along Texas-Mexico border crossings.

Border Violence Shoots Down Alcohol/TobaccoTax Revenue

In May, the U.S. State Department extended travel advisories warning citizens of continuing violence along the Texas-Mexico border towns, severely impacting tourism and trade.

Tax collections for alcohol and tobacco have become the latest casualties of a "continuing unsettled public security situation along the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border," according to a U.S. State Department announcement that extended a travel advisory until July 29, 2005.

"Revenue collections fell approximately three percent during the first six months of the fiscal year compared to the same period last year. The number of cigarette and alcoholic beverage containers stamped is down approximately seven percent," explained Santos Saldaña, program administrator of Ports of Entry, TABC Compliance Division.

The revenue decline came after tourists and business travelers heeded the warning issued last September by the U.S. Consulate in Matamoros. The warnings were issued after reports that Reynosa police took tourists to ATM machines and demanded they withdraw cash for "fines."

In January, the State Department issued a stronger advisory that warned about an increase in kidnappings (27 in six months with two killed), drug-related shootings, and other crimes inside the Mexican border.

Although the advisory has been extended, plans are under way to build and staff new international bridges that will keep tourism and trade alive.

Build Them and They Will Come

New bridges bring new roads and new commerce to surrounding communities on both sides of the border—and more revenue for the State of Texas.

Recently, TABC staff met with representatives from the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Department of Homeland Security–Customs and Border Patrol (DHS-CBP) to discuss construction plans and TABC Ports of Entry staffing for the new international bridges in Anzalduas, Donna and Tornillo-Guadalupe.

Anzalduas International Border Crossing. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer on the Anzalduas International Crossing, which will connect to Reynosa and open in late 2006.

Donna International Border Crossing. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and open in late 2006 or early 2007. The crossing will enable commuters to travel between Donna and Rio Bravo.

Tornillo-Guadalupe International Border Crossing. Last March, El Paso County received a long-sought presidential permit for a new Tornillo-Guadalupe international border crossing with six lanes and state-of-the-art inspection facilities. No final date for opening has been announced.

Changes in Border Crossing Security

As part of the Homeland Security initiative, a new border crossing security program will be implemented at all border stations by December 31, 2005, Saldaña said.

"The U.S.-VISIT program requires all Mexican residents crossing into the United States to be fingerprinted and photographed," he said.

Before this program, a Mexican citizen could cross into the United States by showing his local Border Crosser ID card or his Resident Alien card.

"Now, all crossers must have a laser visa card to enter the United States," he said. "In the future, U.S. citizens will have to show his or her passport to cross into and out of Mexico."

Quick Response, Quick Resolution

Employee Complaint Process

In response to a recommendation made last year by the Sunset Advisory Commission, TABC created a more formal and consistent approach to investigating and resolving complaints against TABC employees. This complaint review and investigation process will ensure the consistent, fair and impartial treatment of the public and agency employees.

The complaint process was revised:

- To protect the public from employee misconduct
- To uphold the Commission's integrity
- To protect Commission employees from false allegations of misconduct

The TABC Office of Professional Responsibility (formerly Internal Affairs) will review and investigate all personnel complaints regarding allegations of illegal acts and/or employee misconduct.

Complaints may be made in person, by telephone, e-mail, letter or anonymously to OPR or any TABC employee.

For complete instructions on filing a complaint, go to the agency web site at **www.tabc.state.tx.us** and click on the "Complaints against TABC Personnel" icon at the bottom of the screen.

For more information, contact Captain Del Drake of the Office of Professional Responsibility at 512-206-3405 or ***d.drake@tabc.state.tx.us***

Retaliation: A Zero-Tolerance Policy

TABC strictly prohibits retaliation toward anyone who reports allegations of misconduct. Accused TABC employees must not make any contact with the complainant or witnesses during the investigation.

Marketing Practices Bulletins provide:

- the latest information on revised rules and agency opinions
- answers to questions from members of the alcoholic beverage industry
- clarifications to TABC staff to ensure the consistent interpretation and regulation of laws statewide

on issues concerning the interaction between the manufacturing, wholesale and retail tiers.

MPB006, Cooler Door Hangers

TABC considers cooler door hangers to be equipment and as such, may not be furnished, given, loaned, or sold to a retailer by a manufacturer, wholesaler, or distributor (see TABC Code sections 102.07, 102.14 and 102.15).

MPB007, Malt Beverage Secondary Packaging

TABC will continue to allow the branding of secondary packaging of malt beverages in excess of 5% alcohol by volume as "Beer (Ale in Tx)" but only if in large print on the bottom panel of the package.

MPB008, Agency Realignment

In September 2004, the agency reorganized Enforcement and Compliance into five regions to enhance efficiency, and provide consistent interpretation and regulation of laws statewide.

MPB009, Fuel Surcharge

In response to an industry inquiry, TABC determined members of the wholesale tier may add a fuel surcharge on deliveries to help defray increased operating costs caused by rising fuel prices.

Surcharges must be assessed fairly to all retailers in the same local market on the same terms, unless a prudent business reason exists.

MPB010, Malt Beverage Labels

Amendments to rules 45.77 and 45.90 allow malt beverages to bear a class or style designation recognized in the brewing industry, such as porter, stout or lager. As before, the label must correctly classify the contents as beer, ale or malt liquor and be legible and easily viewed.

Malt beverages containing 4% of alcohol by weight or less shall not be designated in any packaging or advertisement as "ale" or "malt liquor."

Marketing Practices

Bulletins

For the latest news

To subscribe,
call Dexter Jones
at 512-206-3411
or go to:
marketing.practices@tabc.state.tx.us

To access full text of bulletins, go to:
www.tabc.state.tx.us/enforce/MPBull.htm

MPB011, Methods of Payment and Central Pay Collection Relating to Cash Law

Retailers may pay distributors for beer through electronic fund transfers, as long as the transfer is initiated on or before the day of delivery, and completed no later than the next business day.

Also, retail chains may designate one store as a central payment center for all stores in the distributor's territory. The distributor may make deliveries to multiple stores and receive a single payment for all deliveries that day.

MPB012, Common Media Issues

This bulletin clarifies rules and statutes related to advertising, on-premise promotions, and intra-industry or "tied house" practices.

MPB013, Cost of Promotional Items to Retailers

Rule 45.113(c)(3) allows upper-tier members to sell promotional items to retailers, but only at a cost not less than the manufacturer's regularly published wholesale price.

If an upper-tier member purchases a promotional item at a sale price, then promotional items could be sold to retailers at a cost no less than the sale price.

The sale price should have been published by the item manufacturer and offered as a price to all during the same period.

MPB014, Retailer Offering Price Discount

Providing a discount to a consumer when certain amounts of alcoholic beverages are purchased is not considered a prohibited consumer inducement.

Quantity pricing methods are allowed by retailers as long as they are not tied to a coupon or rebate redemption program.

No retailer may be influenced or otherwise compensated or reimbursed by a member of an upper-tier for any pricing discount offered to a consumer.

MPB015, Infusion of Vodka and/or Other Distilled Spirits

During a process known as infusion, vodka is infused with fresh or dried produce or fruit to produce a flavored vodka.

TABC has been notified that numerous on-premises retailers are producing these drinks on licensed premises.

Infusion is not by itself a violation of Rule 45.5 and is not that different from preparing a mixed or frozen drink on a retailer's premises. However, some dried fruits used as an infusion ingredient may increase the alcoholic content, which may be in violation of the identity standards for distilled spirits in the Administrative Rules.

Further, it is illegal for a manufacturer or distributor to furnish, give, rent, lend, or sell to a retailer, the infusion container or any other equipment used in selling or dispensing alcoholic beverages (see Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code, Section 102.07 (a)(5)).

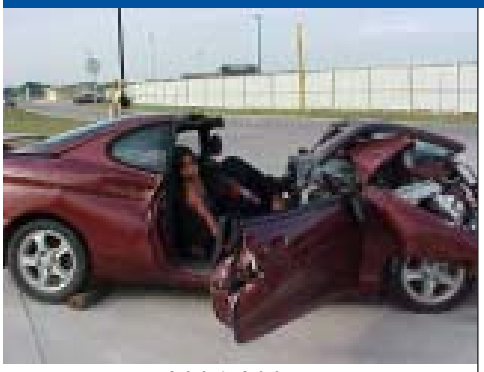
MPB016, Advertising on Delivery Vehicles

Upper-tier members of the liquor industry may now brand their service, equipment and/or delivery vehicles as do members of the beer industry.

A branded delivery vehicle, which displays a distilled spirits advertisement, may also be used to deliver beer or wine where the sale of distilled spirits is prohibited.

The branded delivery vehicle does not represent a billboard or electric sign and therefore would not violate prohibitions of outdoor advertisement in dry areas.

Branded vehicles parked at a retail account for an extended period may violate statutory provisions that prohibit upper-tier members from providing a benefit to a retailer. This bulletin does not authorize third-party mobile marketers to brand the outside of any vehicle for advertising alcoholic beverages. This is prohibited by Section 108.5 of the Alcoholic Beverage Code.



2004-2005
Mini-Grant Program Participants

La Porte High School, La Porte
Valentine High School, Valentine
John Jay High, San Antonio
Van Horn High School, Van Horn
Hamlin High School, Hamlin
Grand Saline High School, Grand Saline
Azle High School, Azle
James Madison High School, San Antonio
Muleshoe High School, Muleshoe
Central High School, Beaumont
Ponder High School, Ponder
Hico High School, Hico
Dallas Christian High School, Mesquite
Brazos High School, Wallis
Breckenridge High School, Breckenridge
Burnet High School, Burnet
Crosbyton CISD High School, Crosbyton
Floresville High School, Floresville
Cedar Park High School, Cedar Park
Plainview High School, Plainview
McCallum High School, Austin
Plains High School, Plains
Cisco High School, Cisco
Wink High School, Wink
Waco High School, Waco
Bandera High School, Bandera
Eastland High School, Eastland
Jack C. Hays High School, Buda
Cleburne High School, Cleburne
Orange Grove High School, Orange Grove
Comfort High School, Comfort
Lockney High School, Lockney
Hudson High School, Lufkin
United South High School, Laredo
R. L. Turner High School, Carrollton
Snyder High School, Snyder
Idalou High School, Idalou
Duncanville High School, Duncanville
Smithville High School, Smithville
Aubrey High School, Aubrey
Borger High School, Borger
Spurger High School, Spurger
Bowie High School, Austin
Fort Davis High School, Fort Davis
Friendship High School, Wolfforth
Ralls High School, Ralls
Shamrock High School, Shamrock

Drinking and Driving Ends All Dreams—Keep Dreams Alive

Shattered Dreams

Educating Young Texans on the Impact of Underage Drinking

A crowd of high school students stand rigid, frozen in shock by the living nightmare before them—a friend's white-cold, bloodied body lies mangled in a deathbed of twisted heavy metal, glazed eyes wide open as the grim reaper, dressed in black, waits beside her. Here lies another kid who'll never live her dreams, never be in love, never give another hug. She'll never smile again. Another young life taken before her time. Another sweet child who didn't deserve to die.

Teach Your Children Well

Fortunately, the nightmare described was part of the Shattered Dreams program—a dramatization that graphically illustrated to teenagers the profound impact of an alcohol-related wreck with fatalities—from the moment of impact to the victim's "funeral."

The "Grim Reaper" looks for the next victim of an alcohol-related wreck at Burnet High School in Burnet, Texas.

A morning assembly brings students to the "crash site" where a fellow student plays an injured victim being "rescued" by authentic police and EMS response teams. Students get involved in the emergency room treatment, family notifications, funeral planning, and the arrest and booking of the driver.

Shattered Dreams. "Communities around the state are often faced with similar tragedies, and many Texas high schools are turning to Shattered Dreams, a youth-led community collaborative program, to prevent more fatalities," said TABC Chief of Enforcement Sam Smelser.

Shattered Dreams was founded in 1997 by a group of dedicated professionals who share a love of children and a mission to keep them safe. The program was adapted from one in California called "Every 15 Minutes"—a reference to the statistic that every 15 minutes someone in California is injured or killed as the result of drunk driving.

According to the founders' mission statement, "Shattered Dreams empowers families and communities by creating a series of life-changing experiences to prevent drinking and driving, and underage drinking through community mobilization; meaningful family dialogue; and education on the consequences of choices emphasizing the importance of decision-making skills.

TABC Mini-Grants. To encourage participation in the Shattered Dreams program, TABC offers mini-grants up to $500 each to high schools to help reimburse purchased program supplies. Funding is provided by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Last year, TABC awarded mini-grants to more than 40 Texas high schools that completed the program. Schools must apply to the TABC, and funds are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. After the event, schools must provide TABC with a report of activities conducted and the number of students who participated.

"We hear from participants that this program is touching kids and changing their behaviors as no other program has done before," said TABC Deputy Assistant Chief of Enforcement Joel Moreno, "Our agency is grateful to see high schools take part in a program that focuses on two very serious problems among young people today."

For more information, contact: Enforcement/Grants at 512-206-3431 or e-mail: grants@tabc.state.tx.us

TABC Awards $200,000 for EUDL Grants to Enforce Underage Drinking Laws

Recently, TABC awarded seven grants totaling $200,000 to Texas non-profits, colleges, and local communities for underage drinking prevention projects. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Program.

"Texas leads the nation in the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities among 15- to 20-year-olds, and this age group remains the most difficult to reach with an anti-drinking message," said TABC Administrator Alan Steen.

"Thanks to this funding and strong community leadership, we have a better chance of reaching these young people and warning them of this deadly problem," he continued.

Each year, organizations seeking grants from the EUDL program can apply to TABC, which functions as the designated state administrator for EUDL. Applications are initially reviewed by the Texas EUDL Task Force—an advisory body of representatives from the Governor's Office, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Health, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, and several statewide prevention nonprofit groups.

TABC received 23 grant applications, and senior TABC staff chose seven finalists on the basis of their proposed underage drinking enforcement and prevention initiatives.

TABC will monitor specific program output and outcome measures that allow the grantee and TABC to determine the effectiveness of funded efforts.

EUDL 2005-2006 Grant Recipients and Funded Projects

University of the Incarnate Word — **$20,000**

Sharing Our Support: A Campus/Community Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking

Summary: To train student peer educators using "Train the Trainer" to teach peers about the consequences of underage drinking in mandatory sessions for incoming freshmen, Greeks, athletes, resident assistants and student leaders.

Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council of Deep East Texas — **$40,000**

Nacogdoches Coalition Responsibly Opposing Underage Drinking (N-CROUD)

Summary: To combine education/awareness presentations to targeted youth, media outreach and marketing campaigns, and provide support for increased enforcement to limit youth access to alcohol.

UT-Brownsville & Texas Southmost College — **$20,000**

Scorpion Identity

Summary: To provide programs that increase students' awareness of alcohol laws and UTB/TSC policies on alcohol, and underage drinking prevention at border area.

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio — **$40,000**

Shattered Dreams: Expanding an Underage Drinking Prevention Program

Summary: To continue program expansion and statewide Shattered Dreams coalition as well as provide technical assistance and program evaluation to high schools.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving — **$40,000**

Community Project Planning

Summary: Conduct MADD/TABC Youth Leadership Power Camp to educate youth/adults about underage drinking prevention, with emphasis on environmental prevention efforts.

Harris County, Constable Precinct 4 — **$20,000**

Task Force on Underage Drinking

Summary: Conduct compliance checks (minor stings) targeting rural establishments in Harris County. Provide prevention education to high schools, junior colleges, and community.

St. Edward's University — **$20,000**

The Hilltopper Advantage: Safe & Healthy Choices

Summary: Peer educators will help coordinate educational programs.

Upcoming Commission Meetings

July 25, 2005
Aug. 22, 2005
Sept. 26, 2005
Oct. 24, 2005
Nov. 28, 2005
Dec. 19, 2005

These dates may change. Confirm dates on our web site at *www.tabc.state.tx.us/about/meeting.htm*

No More Taxes! Special Occupation Tax Suspended

As part of the American Job Creations Act of 2004, the Special Occupancy Tax (SOT) was suspended for certain businesses, including alcoholic beverage manufacturers, wholesalers, importers and retailers.

The suspension begins July 1, 2005, and ends June 30, 2008, according to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB). Liabilities will still be due.

Taxpayers must continue to file the SOT Tax Return (TTB Form 5630.5) ***annually*** with the TTB.

For more information, go to: www.ttb.gov or contact TTB's National Revenue Center at 1-800-937-8864 or 513-684-2979.

Seller Training

Verify Certifications 24/7

Seller Training certifications can be verified 24/7 by using the inquiry screen on the Seller Training web page.

To get to the inquiry screen:

- Go to the TABC web site at www.tabc.state.tx.us
- On the left side of the screen, mouse over "Seller Training"
- Then, click on "Seller Training Certificate Inquiry"
- At the inquiry screen, enter the person's Social Security number and birth date.

If you don't have access to the Internet and want to verify a certification, call your local TABC field office or Seller Training in Austin at 512-206-3420.

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