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**TEXAS/OKLAHOMA AETC**

U.S./Mexico Border Project

**Report from the field – 2**

**IV National Summit of HIV Treatment Educators**

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the *IV National Summit of HIV Treatment Educators in Spanish* was held in Houston, Texas. The event was an HIV/AIDS clinical update conference with 28 presentation and presenters, 95 attendees from all US, Alaska, Puerto Rico and other countries, including Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. The Summit was conducted solely in Spanish.

The program addressed issues affecting Latinos with HIV in the US, including: Adverse Reactions; Antiretroviral Drugs; Health Care Accessibility; Hepatitis C; Hispanics/Latinos; HIV/AIDS Prevention; HIV/AIDS Treatment/Therapies; International Continuity of Care (COC), and more.

The TX/OK AETC Border Project was co-sponsor of the conference in collaboration with the Latino Commission on AIDS. The Houston Local Performance Site of the TX/OK AETC also played a key role in the event, including faculty selection and input on the development of the agenda.

Speakers and attendees at the conference provided positive feedback. Attendee commented, that “in the changing world of HIV, education continues to be the greatest tool that the Spanish speaking community has for a change”; ....to “improve health care, prevention, access to HIV treatments and to achieve a real *Transformation* in the community, facing the challenges for the future”.

In summary, the Summit provided a dynamic program full of relevant information to enhance capacity building skills and equip Latinos and Spanish speaking providers with the latest information to serve HIV—positive individuals in US”

Planning for the next conference started at the culmination of the 2008 event, with the Texas/Oklahoma Border Program accepting a lead role to execute the event in 2009.