



March 18, 2004

Contact: Lisa A. Fellers
Director of Communications
Office: (817) 531-4498
Cell: (817) 874-8683
lfellers@txwes.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Texas Wesleyan University and Arlington ISD collaborate
to eradicate teacher shortage
*\$1.3 million grant award makes it possible***

FORT WORTH, March 18 – In an effort to alleviate the national certified teacher shortage, Texas Wesleyan University, in conjunction with the Arlington ISD, aims to train and certify bilingual elementary school teachers through a scholarship and job opportunity program. The program is made possible through a 5-year grant award of \$1.3 million from the United States Department of Education. It will allow 125 elementary teachers to earn undergraduate degrees toward bilingual certification over the course of five years.

“The teacher shortage has been at the center of the education issue for over 10 years,” says Carlos Martinez, dean of education at Texas Wesleyan University. “We’re expecting to contribute 125 new teachers. It will definitely make a dent in the problem.”

Through the grant award, Texas Wesleyan University will provide approximately \$375,000 in scholarships, or up to \$3,000 per person, toward an undergraduate degree at Texas Wesleyan. Arlington ISD will offer program graduates

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the opportunity to teach in their district, contingent upon a 3-year commitment. To be eligible, interested individuals must be currently enrolled in college and have 40-60 hours of transferable credit hours. Additional admission criteria for the program includes, Spanish proficiency, at least a 2.5 GPA, and the following Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) scores: 260 in reading, 220 in writing and 230 in math.

Representatives from Texas Wesleyan University and Arlington ISD will visit with interested individuals during an informational session at Northlake College on March 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Twenty-five scholarships will be awarded for the summer 2004 component of the program. Applications are now available. For more information, or to apply, contact Dr. Carlos Martinez at 817-531-4945 or cmartinez@txwes.edu.

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