



**Visionary Leadership: An Ethical and Innovative Approach to Empowerment**

**Corpus Christi, Texas**

**October 18-20, 2012**

**Co-Sponsored by**

**CEPA and Texas A&M University - Commerce**

**Executive Summary**



This fall's CEPA Leadership Consortium Conference proved to be a most enjoyable and gratifying event. The theme was *Visionary Leadership: An Ethical and Innovative Approach to Empowerment*. The Radisson Beach Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas was the setting. Laurie Turner, a doctoral student from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and candidate for the Texas State Board of Education, served as site director. Dr. Fred Rodriguez, CEPA President and Founder, served as host. Dr. Maria Hinojosa of Texas A&M –Commerce was the director of outreach.

The flagship university co-hosting this year's event was Texas A&M University— Commerce. The conference brought together faculty, doctoral students and other thinkers from around the country. It recognized dreamers and visionaries, the pursuit of goals, exceptional work habits (most graduate students work full-time) and a desire to grow and excel. It was very enlightening to hear the presentations of future leaders as they shared their thoughts on the conference theme.

Underscoring the positive impact of the conference was the Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor, City of Corpus Christi. It drew attention to the MOU signed between A&M University – Commerce and CEPA to form the CEPA Consortium. Serving as observes of this historic event between a major university and a Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation were the Honorable Joe Adame, Mayor, and Scott Elliff, Superintendent of Public Schools, Corpus Christi. Conference attendees were delighted when Dr. Robert Bisking announced that a \$1,000.00 donation is being made to CEPA on behalf of the faculty, staff and students in the School of Business and Leadership at Our Lady of the Lake University.

Creativity, innovation and networking have become the basic price for admission into the future. Dr. Dan Jones, President; Dr. Larry Lemanski, Director of Research; and Dr. Brent Mangus, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, A&M University – Commerce emphasized this concept during each of their keynote addresses.

Can young people afford to rest on their laurels and think that just because they earned a degree they will be appointed to the highest post? The outstanding panel of deans addressed this critical issue and spoke on what future leaders must do to better prepare themselves for the tough, top posts. These thinkers included Dr. Glenda Ballard, Dean of the College of Education and Liberal Arts at A&M University – Texarkana; Dr. Robert Bisking, Dean, School of Business and Leadership Studies, Our Lady of the Lake University; and Dr. Anne Matula, former Dean, Del Mar Community College. The conference also included breakout and other informative sessions to address: conceptual and empirically-based research papers, abstracts, case studies and work-in-progress reports, all representing the relationships between visionary and ethical leadership for a global perspective.

Community partnership was also demonstrated at this conference. Volunteer leadership, provided by Leadership Corpus Christi during the breakout sessions and Big Brothers Big Sisters of southwest Texas at registration, highlighted the ingenuity and creativity of community leaders. This agreement with the community of Corpus Christi reflects a dedication to academic excellence, mutual understanding, and cooperation towards a common mission and vision

Vidya Ananthanarayanan, a doctoral student at the University of the Incarnate Word stated, “I had a wonderful time at CEPA, and am still processing all the information from the keynotes and sessions. Both were outstanding! I look forward to participating next year!” Farnaz Tabaee, doctoral student at Pepperdine University, stated, “I am so glad to have the opportunity to use the CEPA Consortium platform to launch my research study for my doctoral dissertation.” Margaret Alarilla, Diocese of Corpus Christi and doctoral student at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, was all smiles when she said “Dr. Rodriguez, thank you for inviting me to this conference again. Please count on me for next year.” Dr. Bobbie Jo Monahan, Indiana State University, cheerfully volunteered to serve on the Conference Advisory Council for 2013. All institutions represented at the conference are to be commended and are invited to join us in our efforts by becoming members of the CEPA Leadership Consortium. They served as an inspiration and a focal point for positive humanist change that is so needed right now. We must continue to expand, the world is waiting!



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Delegates: [http://www.cepa2000.org/cepa\\_2012\\_spkrs.html](http://www.cepa2000.org/cepa_2012_spkrs.html)

Official Program: <http://www.cepa2000.org/2012%20CEPA%20Program.pdf>