

1655 Main Street, Suite 101  
Lubbock, TX 79401  
tel 806.747.2711  
fax 806.747.2716  
www.liveunitedlubbock.org



Lubbock Area United Way

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

**Contact: Carolyn Simpson**  
**806.747.2711**

## **Shaping the future workforce: What is the economic impact of high-school drop-outs?**

**WHAT:** Increasing Graduation Rates Forum

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 6 3:00-5:00 PM

**WHERE:** Lubbock Country Club Ballroom

How does an increasing rate of high-school drop-outs affect our regional economy? This is the question driving the Increasing Graduation Rates Forum.

Lubbock Area United Way, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance, South Plains Closing the Gaps P-20 Council, South Plains College Tech Prep, and Communities in Schools of the South Plains are hosting Dr. Lori Taylor at an open forum addressing the economic impact of decreasing high school graduation rates.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The United Ways of Texas commissioned a study through the Texas A&M Bush School of Government and Public Service, titled "*The ABCD'S of Texas Education: Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Reducing the Drop Out Rate*"

Dr. Lori Taylor- author of the study will present her findings. Professor Taylor is an Associate Professor in the Bush School of Government and Public Service; a Program Area Leader for School Finance, Facilities and Organizations in the State of Texas Education Research Center at Texas A&M; and an adjunct Associate Professor in A&M's Department of Economics. She has written extensively on variations in the cost of education and recently developed a Comparable Wage Index for the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

The State of Texas does not have a uniform method of calculating the drop out rate. However, with any formula used, there are still too many students that don't finish high school in our area. That is a major economic impact on the city and the region.

There is designated time during the forum allowing for community input, questions, and discussion.

###