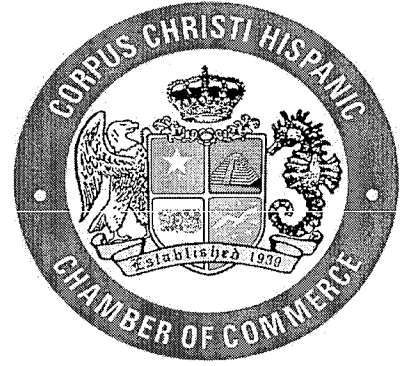




KOCH PETROLEUM GROUP LP



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Hispanic Chamber and Koch Petroleum Group Establish Scholarship Program *“Mano a Mano” Empowerment Scholarship Fund to serve Coastal Bend Students*

Corpus Christi, Texas - The Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Koch Petroleum Group today announced a new scholarship program for Corpus Christi area Hispanic students who attend or plan to attend Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville. The program targets students planning on studying math, science and those interested in pursuing careers in port related industries.

The scholarship program titled “Mano a Mano”, Spanish for Hand in Hand Empowerment Scholarship Fund, is seeded with a \$40,000 contribution by Koch Petroleum Group. The program consists of an application process with GPA criteria, an interview of the participant and their parents to a selection committee, a bi-monthly progress meeting, and a defined level of community involvement so that the awarded participant will have an opportunity to improve his/her networking skills.

“We are extremely pleased to partner with the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to introduce and provide to the community a great resource for advancing the opportunities for our youth to empower themselves by attending a higher learning institution in our area”, stated Joe Coco, Vice-President, Refining and Manufacturing Manager for Koch Petroleum Group. “The Mano a Mano program will not only further educational efforts, but will ultimately lead to more of our young citizens remaining in our community and contributing their knowledge and experience to raise the level of our skilled workforce population.”

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Manuel Ugues, President/CEO of the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce stated, "The Mano a Mano Program is an out of the box approach to helping educate our young population with not only financial resources, but also community service and family support. We envision the student advancing their knowledge, increasing self esteem, their involvement with the community, and most of all, helping set the example for future generations."

The Mano a Mano Empowerment Scholarship Fund was developed to address the need for cultivating a workforce sector that according to port industries reports will show a dramatic decrease in available skilled labor in the next 5-8 years. Currently, there are positions available that go unfilled due to a lack of qualified applicants.

The Mano a Mano program will be promoted at area middle and high schools with a deadline to apply by October 31, 2001. The criteria and scholarship form can be downloaded from the internet at www.ccHispanicChamber.org or www.Mano-a-Mano.org. You can also pick up an application at the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber at 615 Upper N. Broadway, Suite 410.

Established in 1939, the mission of the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to serve the business community by developing positive changes through active participation in education, leadership, public affairs and creating business opportunities for its members. The membership currently consists of over 600 members representing a large diverse group of businesses. Recently, the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was recognized by the Texas Association of the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce as the Large Chamber of the Year for 2001.

Koch Petroleum Group, L.P., is a leading producer of fuels and other petrochemical and commodity products for markets worldwide. Koch Petroleum has approximately 850 employees at its 300,000 barrel-per-day refining complex in South Texas; 750, at its 280,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Minnesota; and 750 others at offices and facilities elsewhere around the globe, including the company's Wichita, Kansas, headquarters.

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